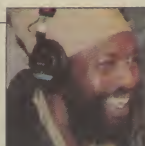


Get off the couch and into the outdoors
Training for the next San Francisco AIDS
Foundation marathon starts this weekend.

page 3

No music from this man
Jamaican musician Capleton
nixed from local reggae event.

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Paris calling
Merchant/Ivory
turn to phone sex.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 38 • 16 September 2004

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Kerry: Support for Missouri amendment was a mistake

by Lisa Keen

In an interview last week, Senator John Kerry, the Democratic nominee for president, said his statement in August that Missouri voters "did the right thing" in passing a state constitutional amendment prohibiting gay marriage was a mistake. The amendment, which voters overwhelmingly approved, bars same-sex marriage and does not explicitly create the right to civil unions, as does a proposed Massachusetts constitutional amendment.

"I was not aware. I was unbriefed and I thought it was the same amendment we had in Massachusetts," Kerry said Thursday, September 9 during an interview in Des Moines, Iowa.

Kerry also addressed other issues during the session, but his statement on the Missouri amendment marked a contrast to his earlier stated support for the gay marriage ban in that state.

No major party presidential nominee has ever granted the gay media an interview during the general election campaign; but last Thursday Kerry agreed to two separate face-to-face interviews with the gay media. This reporter — a veteran gay journalist and independent freelancer based in the Boston area — conducted one for LGBT newspapers around the country. The other, for the *Advocate*, was conducted by the magazine's news editor Chad Graham. Both interviews were conducted separately and were strictly limited to 15 minutes, with only one

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Democratic presidential candidate Senator John Kerry in Des Moines, Iowa on September 9, just before his interviews with gay media representatives.



Sharon Farmer, Kerry-Edwards 2004 Inc.

Schwarzenegger signs first LGBT bill

by Kevin Davis

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on Monday, September 13 signed into law his first gay rights bill, one requiring insurance companies to extend their policies to registered domestic partners in the same way they cover spouses.

Authorized by out lesbian Assemblywoman Christine Kehoe (D-San Diego), Assembly Bill 2208 amends the insurance, health, and safety codes to prohibit insurance providers that offer health, life, homeowner, renters, and auto insurance coverage from issuing policies or plans that discriminate against registered domestic partners.

"We're very pleased he signed the bill," Kehoe told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I think it will help registered domestic partners in California obtain cheaper and better insurance coverage."

"This insurance act is the first of its kind in the nation," Geoffrey Kors, Equality California's executive director, told the *B.A.R.* "What it does is, basically you can't sell insurance that doesn't give equally to domestic partners. Now hundreds of thousands of people have access who otherwise would not."

"We would have been surprised if he did not sign the bill," said Shannon Minter, legal director at the National Center for Lesbian Rights. "It's very straightforward and consistent with his prior support for full equality. It's a very important but incremental extension of existing law."

Kors agreed.

"The governor has stated that he supports giving domestic partners full equality under California law. This brings same-sex couples one step closer," he said.

Several staff attorneys at NCLR worked closely with Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, EQCA, Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi, and Kehoe in drafting the legislation. The bill was supported by labor, business, civil rights, and LGBT organizations, including the Lambda Letters Project. Boyce Hinman, chief lobbyist for Lambda Letters, said that the group delivered over 21,300 letters and e-mail messages

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Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger

SF GOP snubs gay candidate

by Matthew S. Bajko

Joel Springer III, a gay Republican San Francisco school board candidate, says he lost his party's endorsement as payback for the national Log Cabin Republicans' decision not to support President Bush's re-election.

After being recruited in the spring by the local GOP to run in the nonpartisan race, Springer failed to secure the necessary votes during the party's endorsement meeting Wednesday, September 8. The meeting took place one day after the national gay Republican group opted to withhold its endorsement from the president.

"I think it is too much of a coincidence — the juxtaposition of national's nonendorsement the same day that I attend the meeting on Wednesday night," said Springer, who is vice president of the San Francisco Log Cabin chapter.

While other candidates seeking the San Francisco Republican Party's nod were asked several questions by central committee members, Springer said he was asked only one question during the endorsement meeting: Are you supporting the president?

"The woman who asked the question prefaced it with 'I know this isn't a school board question' and then she asked the question," said Springer, who owns a condo in the Castro. "I said 'Yes, it isn't a school board question, but yes, I will answer it. My answer



Gay GOP school board candidate Joel Springer III

was something like 'I am a lifelong Republican. I would like to support the president but, after the State of the Union address, I regret I can't.'"

Paul Lynd, president of the local Log Cabin chapter, said he found the snub of

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Jane Philomen Cleveland

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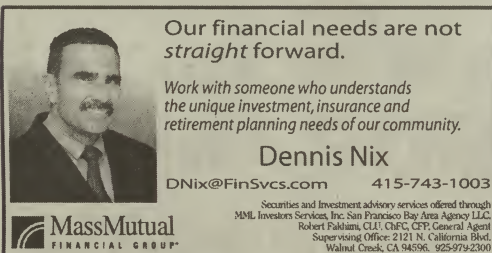
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Nitke in town to promote censorship suit

by Liz Highleyman

SM photographer Barbara Nitke will be in San Francisco during the week preceding the Folsom Street Fair (September 18-26) to discuss her work and drum up support and funds for her pending lawsuit against the federal Communications Decency Act.

Although parts of the CDA were overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in June 1997 after a challenge by the American Civil Liberties Union, provisions allowing "local community standards" to be used to define obscenity on the Internet remain in effect.

Nitke and the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom challenged the law in December 2002, and in March 2003 a three-judge panel for the Southern District of New York ruled that the plaintiffs could go forward with their law-



Barbara Nitke

suit. *Nitke v. Ashcroft* is scheduled to be heard before the U.S. District Court in New York City starting in late October.

Numerous LGBT, civil liber-

ties, adult industry, and sexual freedom advocates have filed amicus briefs in the case or will be serving as expert witnesses.

The plaintiffs argue that the remaining provisions of the CDA could lead to prosecution of individuals and groups that operate Web sites featuring sexually explicit material.

"The CDA statute could deprive artists and educators of one of the last venues we have for displaying, discussing, and selling sexually frank material," said Nitke, a faculty member at New York's School of Visual Arts who maintains a Web site featuring her sexually explicit photography. "I live in fear of prosecution because my photographs could be deemed obscene in some communities."

"Local community definitions of what is obscene vary dramatically," said John Wirenius, attorney for the plaintiffs. "The First Amendment does not allow any one locality to impose its morality on the nation."

Plaintiffs and witnesses are expected to argue that there are no technological means currently available for complying with the CDA, since it is not possible to monitor or control where Web site visitors come from. They will also make the case that sexually explicit speech concerning alternative sexual practices carries social and artistic value.

Local photographer Mark I. Chester and Dr. Carol Queen's new nonprofit Center for Sex and Culture will host a series of events featuring Nitke during her West Coast visit. Proceeds from all events will benefit the CDA lawsuit.

This Saturday, September 18, there will be an opening party for "Sex, Art & Politics," a show featuring SM/fetish photography by Nitke, Michael Blue and Midori, and emerging lesbian photographer Shilo McCabe. The artists will be present and the party will feature performances and a book-signing. The event runs from 8 p.m. to midnight at the Mark I. Chester Studio at 1229 Folsom Street (donation \$5-10).

On Sunday, Nitke will present a slide show entitled "A Romantic View of SM," and will discuss her work as a photographer and the pending lawsuit at an event sponsored by the Society of Janus. The presentation will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. at the San Francisco Citadel, 245 8th Street (\$15 for the

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AIDS fundraiser runs on leg power

by Matthew S. Bajko

Track stars they may not be, but hundreds of Bay Area residents have used their leg muscles to raise millions for local and worldwide AIDS efforts.

Since 2001, when the San Francisco AIDS Foundation teamed up with Walk the Talk Productions, a for-profit commercial fundraiser based in Washington, D.C. with a local office in Oakland, to create an AIDS marathon fundraising program, close to \$10.1 million has been raised.

The company oversees the National AIDS Marathon Training Program. Each weekend in parks throughout the Bay Area, program employees help runners ramp up their ability to run 20-plus mile marathons. Similar programs are held in Washington D.C., Los Angeles, and Chicago, raising money for local AIDS agencies in those cities.

"I was not a runner," said Denise Hadley, 44, a psychologist from San Jose who is training to run her third marathon in December. "You can be successful even if you are not a seasoned runner. The coaches are experts but they understand they are



Runners training for the National AIDS Marathon in Hawaii practice Saturday morning in Golden Gate Park.

doing this with people who hadn't done it before."

Now in its third year, the fundraiser continues to grow in popularity and just enrolled its first two runners in wheelchairs. In the past, a blind runner and a deaf runner have crossed the finish line. AIDS foundation officials say the marathons have surpassed expectations and praise Walk the Talk for meeting its contractual agreements.

It was three years ago that the foundation and the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center broke ties with another professional fundraiser, Dan Pallotta, over questionable billing practices with its former AIDS Rides. Participants also criticized the rides as losing their focus on fighting AIDS and feeling more like a weeklong promotion for Pallotta.

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BRIAN RIZZO, DC

News in brief

compiled by Cynthia Laird

Cuban art exhibit

Mark Johnson, a local gay artist who was one of the last visitors to Cuba through the Center for Cuban Studies, will host a public reception of his new works Friday, September 17 at his studio, 485 14th Street in San Francisco, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Johnson traveled to Cuba last November and visited with other artists throughout the country. In July, the U.S. government stopped travel to Cuba, which has been devastating for the many artists and musicians living in the U.S. whose work has been inspired by Cuban culture. The travel embargo is also threatening the CCS, whose budget was buoyed by tours to the country.

Miss Trans Globe pageant

The Filipino Task Force on AIDS will present its annual Miss Trans Globe pageant Saturday, September 18 at 7 p.m. at the Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon Street, in San Francisco. The event – billed as the search for FTFA's next transgender spokesperson – is one of the organization's largest annual fundraisers.

Misses of ceremony for the evening are Tita Aida and Viktoria La Voovah, and there will be appearances by Miss Vi Ling Nam and Miss Trans Globe 2003. General admission is \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door; reserved seating is \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. To purchase tickets, call FTFA at (415) 920-2630. For more information, visit www.filaid.org.

Local author appearances

San Francisco resident Robert Davolt, the former publisher of *Drummer* magazine, will be kicking off a series of appearances promoting his book, *Painfully Obvious: An Irreverent and Unauthorized Manual for Leather/SM* (Daedalus Publishing, \$16.95) in advance of the upcoming Folsom Street Fair. The book, a collection

of 40 essays that strip away some of the mystery of the leather/SM subculture, is a nominee for the 2005 Stonewall Book Award for nonfiction.

The schedule for Davolt's appearances is as follows: Saturday, September 18, 1 to 4 p.m. at Leather Masters, 969 Park Avenue in San Jose (408-293-7660); Monday, September 20, 7 p.m. at Rock Hard, 518 Castro Street in San Francisco (415-437-2430); Tuesday, September 21, 7:30 p.m. at Books Inc, 2275 Market Street in San Francisco (415-864-6777); Thursday, September 23, 7 p.m. at A Different Light, 489 Castro Street (415-431-0891); Friday, September 24, 1 to 4 p.m. at Mr. S Leather Shop, 310 7th Street in San Francisco (415-863-7764).

Hayward Pride

Organizers are gearing up for the second Hayward Pride event set to take place Saturday, September 18 from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the East Bay city. The evening Pride festival takes place on Main Street, between A and B streets in downtown Hayward. Dave Barker, one of the organizers, said the event will be similar to last year's, and include DJs and dancing, vendor and community booths, live entertainment, and a substance free area for children. A \$5 per person donation is requested for those over 13 years of age. For more information, visit www.haywardpride.org.

Community Center flag benefit

Local political and community leaders are hosting a benefit to purchase and install rainbow flags for the LGBT Community Center. The fundraiser – dubbed "Raise the flags!" – takes place Saturday, September 18 at 7 p.m. in San Francisco. Honorary co-hosts include Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), Supervisors Bevan Dufty and Tom Ammann, Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt, and hosts James Holloway and Donna Sachet. Lady Tia will provide spe-

cial entertainment. A \$50 per person donation is requested. For reservations, location, and more information, call Naomi at (415) 865-5538.

Unitarians celebrate same-sex marriage

The Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco will hold a wedding reception Saturday, September 18 at 7 p.m. at the church, 1187 Franklin Street at Geary.

Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) is expected to be on hand, along with Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, the first couple to marry in San Francisco after Mayor Gavin Newsom ordered city officials to issue licenses to same-sex couples. Leno will introduce the documentary *Freedom to Marry*, and filmmakers Carmen Goodyear and Laurie York are expected to attend the event.

The Unitarian Universalists support same-sex marriage, and the Reverend John Robinson, interim minister at UUSF, legally married same-sex couples in his Massachusetts parish before coming to San Francisco.

Donations are welcome, and will benefit efforts to legalize same-sex marriage. For more information, visit www.uusf.com.

Lyon-Martin benefit

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services hosts its fourth annual "Barbecue by the Bay" Sunday, September 19, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Log Cabin in the Presidio in San Francisco. The afternoon will feature music, dance, delicious BBQ and drinks, and a silent auction.

Lyon-Martin has been providing affordable health care for women by women since 1979. Over 3,000 women visit the clinic each year.

Tickets for the barbecue start at \$75. For more information, call (415) 821-9683 or visit www.lyon-martin.org.

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DP law valid; group wants judge recalled

by Matthew S. Bajko

Ruling that California's domestic partnership laws are valid, Sacramento Superior Court Judge Loren McMaster now finds himself the target of an anti-gay group that says the judge should be recalled from the bench.

McMaster issued his decision that AB205 is valid and does not violate state codes that define marriage as a union between a man and a woman late Wednesday, September 8. The measure goes into effect January 1 and gives domestic partners nearly the same state rights as married couples.

The ruling arose in the context of two lawsuits — one filed by the late state Senator Pete Knight and the other by Randy Thomasson of the Campaign for California Families — that argued the new law violates Proposition 22, the ballot initiative approved by the voters in 2000.

"We are extremely relieved by the court's decision today," said Johnny Symons and William Rogers, one of the 12 couples who intervened in the lawsuit to defend the new domestic partnership law. "As parents, we are doing everything in our power to protect our two young children. But without the protections in AB205, our family will not have the same security as other families."

Gay rights groups immediately hailed the decision.

"The ruling today is a victory for the tens of thousands of California families headed by lesbian or gay couples in committed relationships who will finally have access to most, but not all, of the rights and protections available to married couples under state law," stated Geoffrey Kors, executive director of Equality California. "Hopefully, the California Legislature will pass the Marriage License Non-Discrimination Act next year, which will end the remaining discrimination these families still face."

"We are gratified that the court made the common sense ruling that while important, a comprehensive domestic partnership scheme is not equivalent to marriage and, therefore, does not violate Proposition 22," added National Center for Lesbian Rights Executive Director Kate Kendall. "No matter how you slice it, domestic partnership is not marriage."

Attorney General Bill Lockyer said he, too, was pleased with the judge's decision. [Lockyer, who defended the DP laws while arguing against gay marriage, also learned last Wednesday that he has until October 8 to file his opposition response to the city's lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of California's marriage laws. The two sides will be back in San Francisco Superior Court October 26 for another case management conference.]

"This is good news, and validates the will of California voters.

Proposition 22 dealt only with defining marriage as between a man and a woman. The measure did not prohibit the Legislature from providing rights and responsibilities to couples who register as domestic partners, now or in the future," said Lockyer in a statement.

"As we argued in court, if proponents of Proposition 22 wanted voters to deny certain benefits to couples who register as domestic partners, they should have said so."

Thomasson called the decision a vote for "pseudo-gay marriages," claiming in a release "the ruling upholds AB205, which is commonly known as 'gay marriage by another name'" and said his group was "shocked and saddened that marriage has been counterfeited and the vote of the people utterly disregarded by a Sacramento judge."

In response, Thomasson called for the recall of McMaster, who was appointed to the bench in 1999 by Governor Gray Davis. Davis signed AB205 a year ago, during the height of the recall campaign.

"Distributing marriage rights to non-married couples leaves marriage an empty shell, disrespected and disregarded by ultra-liberal politicians and judges who are out of touch with family values," Thomasson said. "Judges who trash the will of the people could suffer the same fate as Rose Bird, who was recalled by California voters in 1986." ▼

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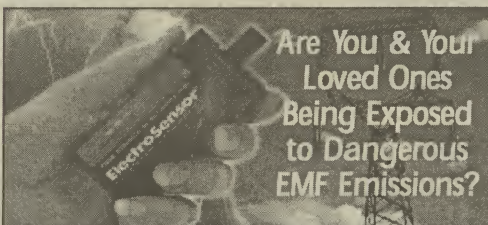
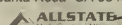
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OPEN FORUM

Another piece of equality

It was a year ago this week that former Governor Gray Davis, in the throes against the campaign to recall him, came to San Francisco to sign into law AB205, Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg's (D-Los Angeles) sweeping domestic partners bill that provides nearly all the state rights and responsibilities of marriage to registered domestic partners. It was a moving event at the LGBT Community Center, with a standing room only crowd cheering the embattled governor, who, for a short while at least, had put aside the fight for his job to help the LGBT community achieve one more step on the road toward equality.

Of course, representatives of the religious right barely allowed the ink to dry before announcing lawsuits to overturn the law; and last week a Sacramento judge rejected their arguments against it, upholding AB205, which goes into effect January 1.

What's interesting to us, however, is how the fundies are spinning their loss and the disingenuous arguments they make, now that they have lost the latest court battle expanding domestic partner rights. In addition, anti-gay leaders announced their plans to recall the judge in the case, though it is too soon to tell whether that effort will become a reality. The judge's ruling certainly does not rise to the level of angst felt by voters decades ago when they recalled California Supreme Court Chief Justice Rose Bird, although the homophobes would want people to believe that allowing additional rights and responsibilities for domestic partners meets that threshold.

Randy Thomason, with the Campaign for California Families, tries to equate AB205 with gay marriage, which the judge ruled it is not – and since losing the court fight, he is attempting to convince state residents that the new law is, in his words, “pseudo-gay marriage.”

Four years ago, during the fight over Proposition 22, anti-gay leaders, in campaigning against gay marriage, repeatedly said that they were not against domestic partnerships, only gay marriages. They insisted they were not engaging in gay bashing in the campaign – it was just that mar-

riage needed to be defined more narrowly. Californians who voted in favor of Proposition 22 presumably did so after buying into that position. Now that domestic partners are about to receive increased rights and responsibilities, those same social conservatives are crying foul. Well, they can't have it both ways, and we believe the electorate can make the distinction.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger certainly can. He quietly signed into law this week another bill that adds a piece to the equality puzzle for state-registered domestic partners. On Monday Schwarzenegger signed AB2208, which requires insurance companies to offer coverage to domestic partners. With this move, the governor has exhibited a clear break from his socially conservative Republican counterparts, and has demonstrated the independence he promised during last year's recall drive.

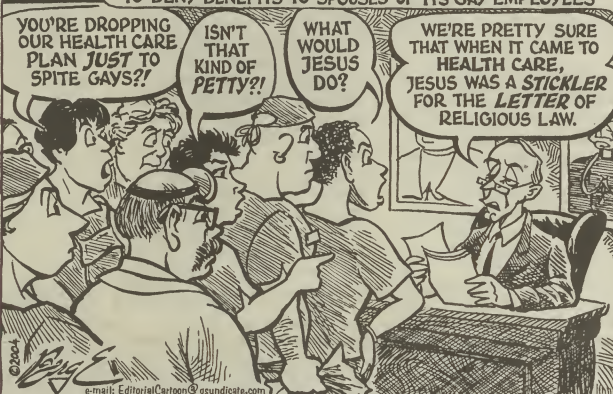
Coming just after his partisan speech at the Republican convention, it was a welcome achievement. Not one GOP Assembly member voted for AB2208 when it was on the floor, and those legislators – even the more moderate ones – should take a cue from the governor and stop trying to scapegoat gays and lesbians.

In other words: don't follow the lead of the antigay Capitol Resource Institute, which during debate on the bill stated “This will violate many people's religious and moral convictions. Marriage is a covenant before God and a commitment for life. This bill is simply an attempt by homosexual activists to get society to put their stamp of approval on their lifestyle and views on morality.”

We're waiting to see how Republicans react now that Schwarzenegger has signed a gay-rights bill. Clearly the sky will not fall, despite the predictable dire warnings from Thomason and others. ▼

Editorial

NEWS ITEM: CARITAS CHRISTI HEALTH CARE OF MASSACHUSETTS CANCELS ITS EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE PLAN IN ORDER TO DENY BENEFITS TO SPOUSES OF ITS GAY EMPLOYEES



Myths of leading a nonprofit

by Thomas Bruein

In past weeks the Bay Area Reporter has reported on the planned departure of the Stop AIDS Project's executive director, Darlene Weide, and has printed a guest opinion and letters both extolling and scrutinizing her contributions. Since we are beginning the search for a new executive director, and because we are truly a community-based organization in both outreach and programming, it might be timely for the community if we dispel some myths about the requirements for this position.

Myth #1: An executive director of an AIDS organization must have a penis. One writer suggested that it would be an embarrassment if the board of directors were to hire anyone but a gay or bi man. Isn't that called sexism? Such a viewpoint disregards the important and critical work that women have contributed to the fight against HIV/AIDS and limits our learning from others. Our safe-sex campaigns sometimes joke about those who think with their dicks, but I'm here to tell you that management and leadership skills do not actually reside in this organ of the body. Are the experiences of gay and bisexual men different from those of women? Certainly. Are there things that we can learn from people that don't mirror our personal experience? Absolutely. Are the perspectives of gay and bi men represented in the staff, volunteers and board at Stop AIDS? Yes. We need a person who can communicate effectively that our work is rooted in sound science – something at which Darlene was quite effective and was key to defending us against repeated and unfounded federal audits. We need a person who can reach out to the community, donors, other AIDS service organizations, and political allies. Believe it or not, all of

those people are not men.

Myth #2: An executive director must do everything themselves in order to share in the credit for accomplishments of the agency during their tenure. The fact is, delegation is key to the success of an organization, and anyone who has had experience as an executive knows this. A board of directors would have to terminate an executive if that person could not delegate, but instead spent all of their time micromanaging the details of every program that went out the door. A leader contributes to the thematic development of programs and reviews the grants that are written to make those programs become reality. She or he gives the green light to certain projects, and must put others on hold based on agency priorities such as strategic alliances, input from the community, and shifts in funding. Darlene worked hard to find additional funding for Stop AIDS in anticipation of federal cuts, and worked with our truly dedicated staff to create and modify the organization's programs as community needs for HIV prevention changed. And yes, because we are often on the cutting edge, the executive director must consider when we are likely to be the subject of public outcry and must communicate that to staff. That's not wavering; that's preparing for reality. Sometimes it even means bracing ourselves for a B.A.R. article!

Myth #3: An executive director must keep everyone happy. Face it, funding is uncertain these days for most nonprofits. Nobody likes downsizing. Tough choices have to be made, and the messenger is often disliked or vilified by those recently laid off. Darlene made staff reductions in light of cuts by the federal government and we will need another leader who may also have to

make hard decisions in the future and withstand being attacked publicly as a result. No matter what gender or sex, the fearful or timid need not apply.

This being said, any person that has dedicated years to the Stop AIDS Project and to the health and well-being of gay and bisexual men should be recognized for their commitment. That includes both Darlene and employees who were recently laid off, regardless of their feelings about management or specific decisions that were made as we, like many organizations, have weathered difficult times. I would like to think that the people who have submitted their opinions did so because they intend to continue working to fight the spread of HIV and AIDS and because they care deeply about how that fight will be waged.

None of us is perfect. If that were the criteria, there would indeed be a very small band of people carrying the prevention message forward. Instead, everyone's contribution is welcome, whether it be of time, talent, or treasure. What is not helpful to this cause is trying to limit the number of people who offer their unique contribution, either through the exclusion that sexism fosters or by attempting to undermine a person's reputation by minimizing their contributions. As a board member, I know that a strong and competent staff is an absolute necessity for our progress and resiliency. I also recognize that Darlene steered the organization through some very difficult times, and with her departure we thank her for the leadership she provided to the Stop AIDS Project and wish her well in her new endeavors. ▼

Thomas Bruein is the president of the board of the Stop AIDS Project.

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Mercy does good work

I am writing to let you know how appalled I am by your article "Little Mercy for Derek Silva tenants" (September 9).

I have been a resident at Derek Silva Community for almost nine years, and lived in the building during the renovation. I understand that Mercy Housing was late in paying rent for some residents while they lived offsite during the rehab work.

But to say that Mercy Housing staff inflicted undue hardship on Derek Silva residents is nonsense. They went out of their way to give people whatever they wanted and needed. I was reimbursed twice for telephone installation and reported it to Mercy. They told me just to keep the money. And they were extremely generous with Dan Lutsky also. He claimed that he had a painting that was damaged during the renovation. And Mercy reimbursed him over \$1,000 for the painting. Dan complained that changing the building's entrance disrupted mail service. That is totally untrue. There was no disruption in mail service.

Overall the people mentioned in your article are a bunch of hotheads who don't like dealing with the changes in the Derek Silva Community. They are only part of a community of over 60 people. I believe that Mercy Housing has done a fine job renovating the building, and so far, has done a fine job in managing it also. In fact, I think they are doing much better than Catholic Charities ever did.

Mercy Housing is an excellent organization and I hope you will do an article on all the buildings they have renovated and opened in San Francisco for low-income people.

Michael Misenti
San Francisco

Contest a great idea

Kudos to the leadership at Eros, Magnet, Better World Advertising, and the Bay Area Reporter for initiating a safe-sex poster campaign ("New contest for safe-sex messages," September 9). With the ongoing transmission of HIV infection and sexually transmitted diseases in gay men in San Francisco, it is critical that there be an effective community reaction and demonstration of responsibility.

The early AIDS epidemic was brought under control and its impact attenuated by a caring community. The recent resurgence of high risk behavior and disease transmission can also be halted. While the control of continued STDs is complex, one necessary response is awareness and education initiated by those most affected. This new initiative is an encouraging sign among several, that folks are willing to discuss safer sex and create a sexually healthier community.

Jeffrey D. Klausner, MD, MPH
Deputy Health Officer
San Francisco Department of Public Health

Record speaks for itself

I write as a stakeholder of Stop AIDS Project – as a gay man of color and as executive director of sister agency Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center – to add my perspective to the so-called debate about Darlene Weide's legacy at Stop AIDS Project.

I met Darlene when she was interviewing for the executive director position, which she was offered and ultimately chose to accept. Recruited as a community representative on the hiring committee, I felt privileged to engage a process – together with a multicultural, co-gender group of staff, board, and volunteers – that values inclusion and integrity.

Darlene faced the multiple challenges of her position with skill and compassion. Her record speaks for itself. I would amplify her role in withstanding audits from the federal government: she and her team of strategists caught rounds of conservative bullets aimed right at our target communities and in the process helped defend our collective right to scientifically-grounded public health, free speech, and sexual liberation.

The innovative programming from the Stop AIDS Project is only possible when external threats are neutralized, creative and intelligent minds are unified by vision, and money is in the bank. In my view, a nonprofit leader's most strategic responsibility – to manage the dual bottom lines of mission impact and financial sustainability – was clearly accomplished on Darlene's watch.

As a gay man I also consider it my job to respectfully take note when my brothers give in to cannibalizing our community leaders, including women of all sexual orientations, who share a deep commitment to ensuring the health of gay/bisexual men over the long haul. Given the opportunity presented by Darlene's departure, let's help encourage antiracist, antisexist applicants from Stop AIDS Project's target and ally communities. Let's help identify the high quality leadership this agency deserves in its executive director, the leadership it has experienced over the past three years with Darlene Weide at its helm.

John Manzoni-Santos
San Francisco

Saddened by resentment

As a lesbian and health educator I have been following the opinion piece and letter to the editor related to Darlene Weide's role as executive director of Stop AIDS. I am saddened, and quite frankly, a bit confused by the resentment expressed toward Weide by Keith Folger (Mailstrom, September 2) and Antonio Kruger ("Others deserve credit at Stop AIDS," Guest Opinion, September 9). While I am not abreast of the interpersonal issues that arose within the agency, it is clear that Weide's leadership during this period of unprecedented hostility from the federal government was largely responsible for the fact that Stop AIDS has not only survived, but has continued to develop new and innovative programs to better serve its constituency. As an activist with much familiarity with the nonprofit world, I recognize that the executive director of an agency provides guidance and encouragement, creates a safe and supportive environment, and basically deals with the "big picture" of sustaining and expanding upon an organization's goals. An executive director is not generally charged with the nuts and bolts of developing and implementing an organization's programs. That task is left to other staff members. The notion that an executive director should not mention the successful programs initiated under her tenure smacks of a troubling double standard. Keith Folger warns the Stop AIDS board of directors that only a gay or bisexual man would be appropriate to lead the agency. Are women valuable in the HIV/AIDS community as nurturers or caretakers but not as leaders and administrators? I certainly hope not. I hope that we have evolved to a point where women in leadership positions are not threatened.

Mailstrom

Blue Walcer, MPH
San Francisco General Hospital

Daddy's boy contest a farce

Last weekend I attended what was billed as the SF Leather Daddy's boy XXII contest and was appalled at what I witnessed.

I've always considered the titles of SF Daddy & Daddy's boy to be revered positions, deserving of pomp and circumstance when the reins of power (sash) are transferred and the lineage handed down to the next generation. What I witnessed over the weekend, in my opinion, degraded into performance art; and a poor performance at best.

Let's not kid ourselves here; this alleged contest was not a contest at all. It was nothing more than a club installing its newest member, in a public forum, in order to raise money for their favorite charity. When you have members of a club (or dare I say clique) competing and being judged by other members of the same club, that's not really a contest. A contest consists of impartial judges from various parts of the community and more than just a couple token contestants thrown in for appearance's sake.

I would have hoped that such a contest would have also included some questions of substance, perhaps along the lines of "What would you do during the coming year to be worthy of this title?", along with some quantitative (and published) means of comparing the contestants, even if only by gauging the contestants' popularity by the roar of the crowd. This could have made the contest more participatory.

Instead, I thought I heard questions like "What is a leather flag?", although I can't be sure due to the venue and number of people. What I did hear were participants on the podium yelling at and arguing with the audience, half of whom could have cared less that a contest was being conducted at all and the other half, who may have been interested at some point, could barely, and even then only occasionally, understand what was being said.

For me this contest was a farce with a predictable outcome.

This contest used to have meaning to me, my friends, and other fellow leather men and leather women I know well beyond those in this Daddy/Daddy's boy club. I used to believe the title of San Francisco Leather Daddy & Daddy's boy was an honor to say nothing of the responsibility. After last weekend's performance, I regret I no longer feel that way.

Yes, this is harsh criticism coming from a fellow leather man, but don't get me wrong. Much as it may surprise you, I still hold great respect for our current and former leather titleholders. It takes guts to stand up and perform before an audience and they will no doubt be of help to the community throughout the year, even if only in some small way.

While I'm sure my public criticism will raise some eyebrows, generate a flurry of responses in my e-mail, and probably even exclude me from potential future social invitations involving anything to do with the SF Leather Daddy/Daddy's boy club members; my beef is not with the participants. Instead it is with the charade of a contest in which the installation of these new club members has been cloaked, as well as the appalling process in which that occurred.

Ken Thomas
San Francisco

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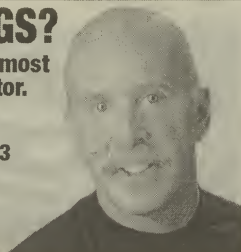
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TV guise

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Two recent announcements from the world of television have left me far from excited about the new fall season. The Turner Broadcasting System – and the producers of *Fear Factor* – are bringing us *He's a Lady*, where 11 male competitors will be given a “complete feminine makeover” during the course of this program. I suspect there will be a few things they won't be completing during the course of this show.

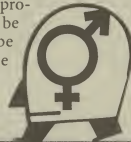
Meanwhile, the UPN network has decided to aim a little lower, introducing *Awful Pretty*, a show that will also revolve around the men-transformed-into-women concept, this time including a *Real World*-type twist by putting the contestants into a house where they'll have to live 24/7 as women. According to the producer, Bruce Nash, “They'll live in some sort of chick pad, watch *Dr. Phil*, take the *Cosmo* quiz, and make sure they don't keep the toilet seat up.”

We all know that if you want to be a real woman, you just have to love *Dr. Phil* and *Cosmo* quizzes, after all.

Neither of the shows actually seem to include any transgender person in these situations: this has only happened on a pair of British reality shows, including *There's Something About Miriam*, where six men wooed the lovely lady,

only to be told on the last episode that she was a preoperative transsexual.

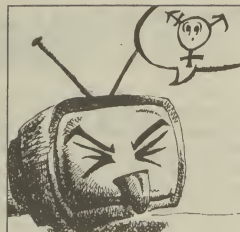
The other U.K. program was the most recent incarnation of *Big Brother*, which included a transsexual contestant, Nadia Almada. While she was initially considered little more than a “joke contestant” by the critics, she actually ended up winning both the big prize and a great deal of compassion from the viewing public.



Transmissions

Knowing that neither the UPN nor the TBS shows seem to have anything about transgender people themselves, why should I be upset about them? The answer is simple: even though there likely will be very little to do with actual transgender experience in either *He's a Lady* or *Awful Pretty*, the average viewer will not see any such distinction.

Our society shapes its views through the television screen. Indeed, television dominates American reality more than ever before. We decide on our leaders largely through how they appear on our TV screens more than through what they happen to say. What we see on the tube is an all too often accepted assumption of the way things really are. So-called reality television only reinforces this, with reshoots, edits, and even the occasional scripted moment simply forgotten by the viewer. The television networks dictate a faux reality, and we take it for real.



Christine Smith

We also live in a world where stereotypes are still used to shorthand human realities, and these stereotypes often are created through the mass media. Consider the way race has been interpreted on television over the last 50 years, and how these stereotypes shaped the way people looked at race.

In many instances, we've managed to move beyond some of the racial and cultural stereotypes that were still common in my youth. In spite of 30 years of feminism, we still face gender stereotypes – including yes, the aforementioned *Cosmo* quiz. There are no definitive stereotypes for “man” and “woman,” no matter how much the media would like to you believe otherwise.

Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people have not yet had the benefit of breaking away from all the assumptions applied to us either. To many people out there, all gay men are hairdressers, all bisexuals are sexual predators, and all lesbians are “diesel dykes.”

Transgender people – being less known within the general public – have to deal with more stereotyping than others. Thanks to decades of talk shows like Jerry Springer's, the assumptions that transgender individuals are men

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POLITICS

GOP's campaign of fear

by Wayne Friday

It first started during the recent Republican National Convention when **George W. Bush** blatantly warned the nation during his acceptance speech that America must not even risk changing presidents this November because we are at war and it is much "too perilous a world."

Then after listening to Senator **Zell Miller** (D-Georgia) and Bush threaten us against changing presidents – it would be a "dangerous" thing to do – Vice President **Dick Cheney**, in a speech last week in Des Moines, Iowa, raised the bar of fear politics even higher when he said that if Senator **John Kerry** wins the election – "if we make the wrong choice, the danger is we'll get hit again and we'll be hit in a way that'll be devastating from the standpoint of the United States." In other words, a vote for Kerry is a vote for more terrorism.

It's interesting how Bush keeps telling us on the one hand that overthrowing **Saddam Hussein** has made the world "a much safer place" while running a political campaign that insists we are still in "imminent danger" of further terrorist attacks. The Bush-Cheney campaign can't have it both ways – or can it?

Some recent polls suggest that the Republican campaign of fear could be working with voters, if only for the time being. The latest *USA Today/CNN/Gallup* Poll shows Bush with a clear lead over Kerry in the battleground states of Missouri and Ohio – states Bush probably needs to hold to win re-election; Kerry is ahead in Washington state and in a dead heat with Bush in Pennsylvania, swing states that are important to a Kerry victory.

The quartet of statewide polls in these states – particularly Missouri and Ohio where Bush has shown some gains – reflects a race that, while still highly competitive, is showing some Bush gains, and, thus means that voters appear to be buying into the Republican "war fear" campaign. Though Cheney, after heavy criticism from editorials in several newspapers, tried to later modify his "vote for us or you die" warning by telling the *Cincinnati Enquirer* that he didn't mean "that if Kerry were elected, we will be hit by another terrorist attack; whoever is elected president has to anticipate more attacks."

True, an Associated Press poll this week had the Bush-Cheney team with a 51 percent to 46 percent lead over the Kerry-Edwards ticket, so maybe for the time being, the GOP fear campaign is working. However, the latest Rasmussen Report, (a daily tracking report of 1,014 voters) shows the race between Bush and Kerry to be about even, and on the question of whether the country is headed overall in the right or wrong direction, Bush is in big trouble: 52 percent say wrong track versus 44 percent who say right track.

While Bush does better with voters when it comes to the war in Iraq and the war on terror, U.S. casualties in Iraq last week passed 1,000 and that is not good

news for the administration. This means that the upcoming presidential debates will likely decide who ultimately wins the election. Little wonder, incidentally, that the Bush campaign is pushing hard to pressure the Commission on Presidential Debates to settle for only two debates (October 8 and 13) instead of the three the commission had originally planned.

The nation's economy and joblessness are real problems for Bush in battleground states like Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Missouri, and with Medicare going up 17 percent in the next year, healthcare is sure to become a hot political issue as well. Bush and Cheney will not be able to continue to talk only about terrorism through November 2.

There likely will still be three presidential debates (and one between the veep nominees) and with **James Carville** ("it's the economy, stupid") now advising Kerry, look for a re-focused Kerry-Edwards campaign, and for the polls to change dramatically, probably a couple of times before the election. You think this election is over? Not by a long shot; I remember in 1992 when **George H.W. Bush** was leading **Bill Clinton** by 18 percentage points two months before the election; I'm calling this one for John Kerry on November 2.

Politics and people

On vacation this week (gone fishing in Michigan) so I don't know what bills the governor has signed or vetoed, but one thing is pretty clear, after a week partying with California business leaders during the GOP convention, Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** last week sided with them on two key November ballot measures, angering consumer groups, environmentalists, and labor unions in the process. Schwarzenegger announced he would oppose Proposition 72, a referendum on a health care law that would require more employers to provide medical benefits to their workers. Proposition 72 was authored by state Senator **John Burton** (D-San Francisco) and the gov's opposition drew this angry comment from Burton: "I'm very disappointed that the governor decided to play 'girlie man' for the Chamber of Commerce and go against providing health insurance for the working people of California." Schwarzenegger's opposition might not be enough to kill Proposition 72, however, a recent Field Poll found 48 percent of voters supporting it with 31 percent against. Certainly it's only a coincidence, but Walgreens last week quietly donated a whopping \$100,000 to defeat Proposition 72 as well. In another pro-GOP political move, Schwarzenegger announced he supports Proposition 64, a business-backed initiative designed to curb "frivolous" lawsuits; the governor joins groups like the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, the Chamber of Commerce, Intel, and Oracle, while Proposition 64 is opposed by consumer groups, the Sierra Club, the League of Conservation Voters and the California Nurses Association.

Nervous White House: Even before NBC's *Today* show started airing its three-part series on **Kitty Kelley's** controversial new bio of President Bush, *The Family: The Real Story of the Bush Dynasty*, which is being published this week by Doubleday, the White House spin machine flew into full defense mode, reportedly taking the unusual step of calling NBC News President **Neal Shapiro** to complain that (according to the White House) the book "appears to be the same trash that was discredited, disavowed, and dismissed years ago." In addition, the Republican National Committee has circulated a memo to GOP-friendly talk-radio hosts under the headline, "New Kelley Book, Same Old Kelley Slime." Incidentally, the new Kelley book raises some more questions about Bush's Texas National Guard Service in the 1970s and more allegations of drug use when Bush was younger (so tell us something we didn't know, Ms. Kelley).

First he's gone, then he's back: After avoiding the GOP convention altogether (gotta keep the conservatives happy; they already had too much of Arnold, Rudy, & Co.), Secretary of State **Colin Powell**, who is popular with the public, was all over the Sunday talk shows last weekend touting Bush's foreign policy, but has anybody seen Defense Secretary **Donald Rumsfeld** lately?

So **Ralph Nader** is finally coming clean and confessing to what we knew he was up to all along – getting George W. Bush re-elected. Nader, whining all the while, of course, predicted last week that Democrat John Kerry is going to lose the election "and bring Democratic congressional candidates down with him." You go, Ralph – you want four more years of Bush, but the rest of the country doesn't. Nader, incidentally, likely will appear on ballots in 22 states and the District of Columbia with his running mate, Green Party stalwart **Peter Camejo**.

Meanwhile, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is trying to lend some political star power to GOP U.S. Senate nominee **Bill Jones** by appearing with the antigay Republican Tuesday night at a \$2,000 per person fundraiser at the Beverly Hilton; incumbent Senator **Barbara Boxer** leads Jones in this race by double-digits and even Schwarzenegger doesn't have enough muscle to pull this one off for Jones.

Meanwhile, guess all those rumors about former 49er quarterback **Jeff Garcia** (now with the Cleveland Browns) being a closet gay must have been untrue after all (sorry, guys). Word out of Cleveland has two Garcia girlfriends, one the reigning *Playboy* Playmate of the Year, in a bar brawl fighting over the football star, and we all know that closeted gay pro athletes don't date women, don't we?

And taking a page from the silly "Cutest of the Castro" contest, actress-model **Carmen Electra** is looking for a few models of her own and announces she will host Bravo's upcoming reality competition *Manhunt: The search for America's Most Gorgeous Male Model*, reports the Associated Press.

And how was your week? ▼

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Gay first, Republican second

by Dale Carpenter

The Log Cabin Republicans' decision not to endorse George W. Bush does two important things. It maintains LCR's integrity as a group dedicated to equality for gay Americans. And it may actually increase LCR's influence within the GOP.

Before discussing the decision, I should explain my own past affiliation with LCR. I was president of the group's Texas chapter for three tumultuous years in the 1990s, during which we fought precinct-level battles within the party, unsuccessfully sued the Texas GOP for refusing to honor an agreement to give us an information booth at the 1996 state convention, and staged a protest against the party for again refusing us a booth in 1998. I also served briefly on LCR's national board. Although I have many friends in LCR, I no longer have any role in the organization.

There has long been a basic di-

vide within the group. In one corner are the "gay-first Republicans," members who generally support traditional Republican policies on taxes, spending, and foreign affairs, but whose main purpose is to advance their passionate belief in gay equality. They are deeply distressed by the party's anti-gay attitudes. They figure that equality can never be secure until both major parties support it, and that this requires having gay advocates within the GOP. Their belief in most Republican values is genuine, but their activism in LCR is primarily strategic. It is mostly an attempt to advance gays' standing among Republicans, not to advance the GOP's standing among gays. They are gay first and Republican second.

In the other corner are the "Republican-first gays," members who consider themselves Republicans-who-happen-to-be-gay. The party's antigay positions

bother them, but not to distraction. Far more important to them are the party positions they agree with, like its foreign and economic policies. Their involvement in LCR is primarily an expression of their disgust for left-dominated gay politics and reflects a desire to bond politically and socially with like-minded gay people.

They are Republican first and gay second.

There are gradations of views in between, but these poles roughly describe things. I have always been much closer to the gay-first Republicans.

It has never been accurate to charge, as some bigoted people do, that either of these groups is self-hating. Neither supports antigay policies, which is what the slander of self-hating implies. The gay-first Republicans are every bit as dedicated to gay equality as anyone in the gay-rights movement, but believe there is a distinct and essential role they can play in advancing it. The Republican-first gays also oppose antigay policies, but give a higher priority to non-gay issues like taxes, just as some gay liberals give a higher priority to non-gay issues like abortion. At worst, the gay-first Republicans can be faulted for occasional tactical errors; the Republican-first gays, for misplaced priorities. But neither group can fairly be indicted for internalized homophobia.

LCR's vote not to endorse Bush, by a 22 to 2 margin of the

group's national directors, was primarily a gay-first Republican decision. It was a strong affirmation that LCR's basic mission is to advance gay equality within the GOP, not to support GOP candidates at all costs.

But even some Republican-first gays in LCR supported the non-endorsement. Bush's betrayal of traditional conservatism on matters like fiscal responsibility and free trade made it easier. Republican-first gays could also justify non-endorsement as a way to nudge the party away from extremism and thus to serve the GOP's own long-term political interests.

As long as a Republican candidate is making serious progress toward supporting gay equality it makes sense for a partisan organization like LCR to endorse him, even if he's objectively worse on gay issues. LCR helps the cause by showing GOP candidates there are rewards for good behavior.

That's why LCR's endorsement of Bush in 2000 made sense from a gay-rights perspective, even though Bush was objectively worse than Al Gore on gay issues. Bush had publicly met with gay Republicans, the first time a GOP presidential nominee had ever done so, and had pronounced himself a "better man" for having met them. He was making progress.

One million gay voters backed Bush in 2000, 25 percent of the total gay vote. In return, Bush continued to make progress by appointing openly gay people to his administration and by maintaining a federal non-discrimina-

tion policy covering sexual orientation.

Now Bush's advisers have decided that the way to win is to gin up enthusiasm among religious conservatives. So Bush has backed, and has campaigned on, a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

That's why LCR's non-endorsement of Bush this year makes sense. Bush has taken a giant leap backward by actively supporting an amendment that is qualitatively more deadly to gay equality than anything any president has ever supported. It's a completely unnecessary and unforgivable betrayal of basic constitutional values.

If LCR had nevertheless endorsed Bush it would have ceased to be an organization devoted to gay equality. It would have become simply another obedient auxiliary of the GOP, albeit one with a twist in its martini, and above all one that Republicans could take for granted.

Thus, this very act of defiance may ultimately make LCR a more viable force in the party. If significantly fewer gays vote for Bush this year, LCR will have helped demonstrate that even among Republican voters there's a political cost to being antigay. That might make the GOP think twice next time around. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. Some of his past columns can be read at www.indogayforum.com. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.



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Passport fashion event nears

by Tyson Gillfillan

Lights, models, guest lists, and runways. It must be time for this year's Macy's Passport.

Area fashionistas will soon converge on San Francisco's Fort Mason for "Evolution/Revolution" — to see and be seen, and raise money for HIV/AIDS agencies.

Evolution/Revolution involves three evenings of music, fashion, food, and a touch of kitsch, beginning with Teen Night on Tuesday, September 21, an event exclusively for Bay Area high school students to benefit Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, the New Conservatory Theatre Center, and the Stop AIDS Project. Blending fashion, theatre, and interactive games, the fifth annual teen night is "an energetic evening to educate kids about HIV/AIDS issues," said Christina Choy, spokeswoman for Macy's Passport 04.

On Wednesday the event boasts a reception serving Bay Area restaurant creations, a fashion show, and a celebrity live auction featuring VIP access to the Tribeca Film Festival in New York, and a *Will & Grace* walk-on role among highlighted items up for bid.

In addition to a black-tie VIP reception and after-party, the gala event on Thursday, September 23 features musical guests Chanticleer and Bishop Yvette A. Flunder. The fashion show will kick off with the unveiling of guest designer Michael

Kors's newest collection, followed by a runway of visual fashion creations by Anna Sui, Vanity Fair Intimates, ABS by Allen Schwartz, and M.A.C. Cosmetics.

Thursday's pre-show reception celebrates Barbie's 45th anniversary. "Barbie Through the Decades" showcases the doll's changes through time, and a "Designer Barbie" lounge displays Barbie in couture by Giorgio Armani, Donna Karan, and Kate Spade.

Over the years, Macy's Passport has raised \$18 million for its beneficiaries, including the AIDS Research Institute at the University of California, San Francisco, Positive Resource Center, Project Inform, Project Open Hand, and Shanti. Evolution/Revolution marks the 22nd annual fashion fundraiser for HIV/AIDS service organizations, founded by longtime AIDS advocate Dame Elizabeth Taylor, who will not be attending this year.

For local supporters unable to attend the events, select area Macy's will present "Passport In-Store" September 24 and 25, featuring special purchase discounts, fashion presentations, beauty seminars, and cooking demonstrations.

Tickets for the September 22 and 23 events range from \$65 to \$75 and are available through Ticketmaster. VIP runway seating and sponsorship packages start at \$150 and can be purchased from Blue Room Events, (877) 252-7814. ▼

Gay candidate

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Springer "curious."

"I was surprised and disappointed he didn't get the party's endorsement. After all, the party had recruited him to be their candidate in the school board race. I would expect they were going to endorse him," said Lynd. "Under the circumstances I think it is very curious if you look at all the circumstances, the timing of it, the fact it's the same day national Log Cabin announced we were going to withhold our endorsement of President Bush. You could say it is a repercussion of all this."

Former Log Cabin chapter president Chris Bowman, a member of the San Francisco Republican County Central Committee for the 13th Assembly District and its secretary, said he felt it was more a combination of several factors — the Log Cabin's snub of Bush, the vote coming right after the Republican convention, several absent members of the committee and Springer's answer to the question. Springer needed 15 votes out of 21 that night to get an endorsement, and Bowman said he only received 10.

"I think it was a backlash more on his statement he wasn't going to support the president when asked point blank by one of our more conservative members. He kind of hemmed and hawed then actually said no based on what he [Bush] said during his acceptance speech," said Bowman. "I think he would have had the votes otherwise. Frankly, if he said he wasn't going to endorse Kerry he would have had the votes."

Bowman laid some blame with the national Log Cabin leadership. He said he had told officials of the

back-to-back endorsement meetings though he did not specifically ask them to delay their decision.

"I think it is unfortunate. I think the timing was crappy. If national had made its endorsement the day afterwards I think he would have been endorsed because I don't know if the question would have come up," said Bowman. "Whatever timing they did, it was going to have a backlash afterwards."

Leo Lacayo, vice chair of communications for the local Republican Party, said the only reason Springer didn't get endorsed is because he failed to get the 15 votes needed.

"I don't know the reason why one person voted for one candidate or not," said Lacayo. "When he said he didn't endorse the president in the face of 21 people endorsing the president it doesn't give much reason to vote for you."

He also pointed out the party only endorsed two candidates that night. Former Mission Station Captain Greg Corrales, who is running for supervisor in District 7, received a unanimous nod, and Fil Silverio, a former lieutenant colonel in the military who is running in District 11, also won an endorsement. [District 2 supervisor candidate Steve Braccini was endorsed by the Republicans last month.]

"We listened to a lot of candidates that night who didn't get endorsed. You can't claim to be singled out for not being endorsed," argued Lacayo. "If the majority was endorsed and he was not, he could make some claim. But in fact he was in the majority."

Nor was he the only Republican not to get a nod. District 7 supervisor candidate Isaac Wong also failed to win an endorsement. Lacayo said committee members

might have had other issues with Springer to sway their votes than his ties to the gay GOP group.

"I think what a number of members on the committee had a problem with was that there is a little track record with Joel and it had nothing to do with" the presidential race, said Lacayo. "He was expelled from the central committee. He shifted his residence without advising us so actually he was illegally on the committee. Some people had an issue with that."

Springer said he resigned from the committee in 2003 when he moved out of his home in the Richmond, part of the 12th Assembly District, and into the Castro, part of the 13th Assembly District. He also said Starchild, a Libertarian LGBT school board candidate who sought the Republicans' endorsement, was not asked if he supported President Bush.

Along with Bush's supporting a Federal Marriage Amendment during his January speech, Springer said the budget deficit, the expensive Medicare bill, and the party's ties to the religious right have all caused him to take issue with the president. That said, he is not a John Kerry supporter.

"I am not voting for Kerry. I am a lifelong Republican, except for a short time as a Libertarian. I honestly don't know what I am doing on voting," said Springer. "It is very difficult. It is not a pleasant position to be in. I would like to support him [President Bush] but going to the FMA and other things he has said reinforcing that, he is going to the personal for me and everyone else in Log Cabin. It is not a matter of political interpretations or opinion you can gloss over."

Party cannibalizes itself?

A school board seat is widely

seen as the first step in a political career. By not supporting GOP candidates, some charge the Republican Party is failing to groom its own people for higher office. Only one Republican holds elective office in San Francisco — BART board member James Fang.

"I think it is a mistake in simply not endorsing the qualified Republican candidate for office when you have the opportunity," said Springer.

The last time a Republican sat on the city's school board was 1985, when Eugene Hopp lost reelection. He had been a member of the board since the early 1970s. When asked if the party shot itself in the foot by not endorsing Springer, Bowman said, "I would agree with that. Yeah, logically you want to create a farm team so people will get experience after they get elected and can run for bigger and better things. I think the party is back to square one on that because they didn't endorse anyone" in the school race.

There are four seats up for grabs in the November school board race, and with 12 candidates running, any edge with voters helps. While the Republicans are not openly opposing Springer's election — the party did vote to oppose the re-elections of Supervisors Gerardo Sandoval, Jake McGoldrick, Aaron Peskin, and Tom Ammiano — he will not receive any financial support or be included in the party's mailers.

"I am not sure what impact this will have on his campaign," said Lynd. "Certainly, it is beneficial to have the party's support. It represents a good chunk of voters in this city."

In progressive San Francisco, however, being dissed by the Republican Party could turn out to be a boost for Springer's campaign.

paign.

"I had been somewhat ambivalent about having the endorsement because to have been endorsed as a Republican in San Francisco — people look at that and say I am not going to vote for him," said Springer.

Springer, a former teacher and education policy analyst, said while "it would have been advantageous" to be on the Republican's slate card, he doesn't think not being included will hurt his chances.

"It might hurt my fundraising with some of the Republican people but I don't know. As for affecting the campaign, I don't have a feel for that yet," he said. "People I talk to one-on-one like what I am saying. I get good reactions. It is just a matter of being out there more."

Lacayo said in the end, most voters do not select a candidate based on their endorsements.

"We put too much weight behind these endorsement things. I personally don't see who endorses the candidate," he said. "I wish Joel the best of luck with his run."

Bowman said Springer needs between 60,000 to 70,000 votes to win a school board seat. As a newcomer, Springer already faced a tough campaign, he said.

"I just hope Joel does very well without the Republican endorsement," he said. "No Republican has gotten more than 35,000 votes since the 1980s. If he can get more than that without the endorsement, more power to him. But even with the endorsement, it was going to be difficult."

Springer could still get some Republican assistance for his campaign. The local Log Cabin group will meet October 5 to discuss its endorsements in the San Francisco races. ▼

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Capleton dropped from reggae festival

by Matthew S. Bajko

The producer of Reggae in the Park, a two-day fundraiser for Global Exchange in Golden Gate Park, decided to cancel the appearance of a performer gay rights groups contend is homophobic and incites violence against gays and lesbians with his music.

Michael Levine of Events West announced Friday, September 10 he had dropped Capleton as the closing act Sunday, October 3 and instead had lined up Culture, a reggae roots group known for its nonviolent pacifist politics and progressive, traditional sound.

Initially Levine and Global Exchange, an international human rights organization, resisted calls to disinvite Capleton, whose real name is Clifton George Bailey III, saying they instead wanted to mediate a solution between the artist and a coalition of groups led by Community United Against Violence.

"Global Exchange's intention (in consideration of the free-speech and censorship issues that all progressive organizations support) was to try and foster a partnership between LGBT, anti-violence groups like CUVA [sic] and Global Exchange to begin constructive engagement with Capleton as a catalyst to bring about change in Jamaica. Our belief was that to cancel was to take the easy



Photo Credit

Disinvited: No Capleton at Reggae in the Park

step; the challenge was to educate and reform," Levine said in a statement. "We now feel that the climate in San Francisco has become too volatile to try and work toward this goal at this time, all concerned feel that canceling his appearance is necessary."

Asked to explain what he meant by climate, Levine said via e-mail, "We mean the controversy that has been raised."

CUAV's Tina D'Elia praised the decision, saying it was the first time Capleton had faced the same consequence as Beenie Man, another reggae star accused of homophobic lyrics who has had numerous concerts canceled after gay groups protested.

"I am pleased to hear there has been a replacement if the replacement is indeed standing behind and echoing the words of the concert which means human rights for all internationally and at home," said D'Elia.

Outside of San Francisco, Capleton's appearances on his U.S. tour have generated sporadic opposition. According to his

record label, Capleton is set to perform at California State University, Sacramento Thursday, September 30 and in Arcata at Humboldt State University Friday, October 1. Local resident Kevin James Gardner is pressuring Toad's Place, a venue in New Haven, Connecticut near his alma mater Yale, to cancel its Beenie Man and Capleton concerts; Capleton is scheduled to perform there Monday, September 20.

Controversy has dogged Capleton in New Jersey, a state with the nation's first openly gay governor. Along with two other performers, he was forced to sign a contract agreeing not to perform antigay songs at a reggae festival this Sunday in Newark. Nonetheless, gay Garden Staters have criticized his appearance.

At the request of Levine, Capleton issued an apology to the LGBT community last month saying his song "Bum Di Chi Chi" ("Burn the Queer") was a metaphor for cleansing and that he did not advocate violence. But leaders of several groups, including Global Exchange Executive Director Kirsten Moller, responded with a statement of their own, calling Capleton's apology "hollow."

Faced with mounting pressure, Levine and Global Exchange decided to remove Capleton from the concert's lineup. In his statement, Levine said both his company and the nonprofit "are very sensitive to the human rights issues at stake and have a long-standing history of presenting the uplifting, positive reggae message of unity, inclusion, tolerance, and one love."

The concert will take place Saturday, October 2 and ends Sunday in Golden Gate Park. Tickets are \$22 for one day, \$40 for two days, and can be purchased through inhousetickets.com. ▼

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Schwarzenegger

◀ page 1

in support of the measure.

According to a story in the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, the governor's office announced his approval of Kehoe's bill late Monday "without any fanfare or even a signing message explaining his decision."

"It's particularly interesting that not one Republican member of the Assembly voted for the bill," said Kors. "That speaks highly of him, and shows how out of step they are. Hopefully Republicans in the Legislature will stop being so extreme and start following the governor's lead."

In summary, AB2208 requires every insurance policy that is issued, amended, delivered, or renewed in California to provide the same rights, protections, benefits, responsibilities, obligations, and duties to a policyholder's domestic partner as are guaranteed to, imposed upon, and equal to the same terms and conditions offered to a policyholder's spouse.

According to Kehoe, the bill conforms to AB205's health, safety, and insurance code provisions. It also brings those provisions in line with requirements in existing nondiscrimination provisions. AB205, the domestic partner rights and responsibilities bill signed last year by former Gover-

nor Gray Davis, takes effect January 1, 2005.

Garamendi said AB2208 establishes a necessary and consistent standard of nondiscrimination in insurance.

Currently, registered domestic partners can be denied benefits or coverage or pay higher premiums. Because of this practice, domestic partners and employers are often forced to switch insurers to purchase coverage that treats spouses and domestic partners equally.

After its approval in the Assembly August 25, the bill went to enrollment on September 3 where it was prepared for the governor's signature. The governor has 30 days to sign the bills, the vast majority of which arrive on his desk at the end of session. AB2208 becomes law on January 1, 2005.

The bill defines domestic partners as two adults who have chosen to share in a committed relationship and have filed a declaration of domestic partnership with the secretary of state.

The law brings minor and absorbable costs to the Managed Health Care and Insurance departments to enforce the bill's provisions, according to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

"It won't lead to significant cost increases for anyone," said Minter. "This law is about a very basic principal about equality for same-sex couples." ▼



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John Kerry

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other person in the room (Kerry spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter took notes and marked time).

Fifteen minutes is not much time, but a check of previous interviews granted by the senator indicated that at least some of his interviews to other media outlets were equally brief.

The interviews took place at a campaign stop in Des Moines, Iowa, just after the senator spoke to an audience about health care.

Kerry on the record

The gay community knows your record, generally, and the Human Rights Campaign has described it as stellar. But I don't think many of us know exactly what inspired you back in 1985, in your first term, to author the gay civil rights bill. Can you recall who or what —

Senator Kerry: I just think it's an important matter of fundamental fairness. I think, you know, all Americans ought to be treated fairly. And the equal rights clause and the equal protection clause mean something to me. And I think you have to take on some tough fights sometimes.

And as president, I hope to pass ENDA [Employment Non-Discrimination Act], I hope to pass hate crimes legislation. I hope to be able to advance the understanding in America of the difficulties people face in some of the choices in life and we have to be a country that's open and embracing people, period. I mean I just don't know how we're America if we don't live up to those ideals.

I thought maybe you had a gay friend or gay family member that inspired you to take up that mantle.

Well, I've had friends, obviously, and I've had supporters in my races and people I've cared about. But I just never spent a lot of time thinking about people as, you know, different. I mean, each to their own. People choose or don't choose — they are who they are. You are who you are. And that's who we are in America — a country that's understanding and recognizes that. We obviously have some distance to travel. We're still fighting discrimination over color and religion and a lot of hurdles to go.

... including DOMA and the Federal Marriage Amendment. You voted against the Defense of Mar-

riage Act and you've spoken out against the Federal Marriage Amendment. In both cases you described it as "gay bashing for political gain." Many of us feel that the constitutional amendments to ban same-sex marriage in Massachusetts and Missouri also constitute gay bashing for political gain. I'm curious why you haven't spoken out against those two?

Well, I think there's a distinction. I don't think that's gay bashing. It's, obviously, a position that people in the GLBT community disagree with — I understand that. But I think that, historically, the definition of marriage and the application of marriage laws has always been state defined. It is up to the states, not the federal government. That's why I viewed the federal efforts, as specifically targeted, as gay bashing, because they were usurping into a territory that they didn't belong. There was no need to do that. Under the Constitution, no state has to recognize another state's decision, and it's up to the states.

So what they were doing was reaching, for political purposes, to drive a wedge. But it is within the rights of a state to define marriage. That's within states' rights. And, you know, the majority of people in most states have a dif-

ferent view about what constitutes marriage. So this is a debate that's going on now. People have different views. What I think is important is to fight for fundamental rights. To me, the focus right now ought to be on the application of the equal protection clause — ought to be gaining the foothold of employment non-discrimination, gaining the foothold of hate crimes legislation, making sure that we're protecting people's ability to share the same rights — partnership rights, tax code treatment rights, ownership rights, Social Security — those rights are what are important to me. That's what's governed more by the state and it becomes less of a conflict between ... religion and the state, if you will.

[Note: Under the Constitution, states must give "full faith and credit" to the "public acts, records, and judicial proceedings and acts of all other states." Constitutional law professor Chai Feldblum says, "the Supreme Court has never directly ruled that, under the Constitution, states must recognize all marriages from other states, and as a matter of general practice, states have sometimes invoked their right not to recognize a marriage from another state that is contrary to its public policy."]

You have supported the idea of providing federal benefits through civil unions.

Yes.

How would you go about making that happen, as president?

You have to fight for it. You have to introduce it.

You would introduce legislation to make that happen?

That's equal protection under the law.

I know you supported the Massachusetts amendment and it does provide for an alternative of civil unions.

Correct.

But the Missouri initiative which just recently passed, and a number of those that are coming up this November — Michigan, Ohio, and others — are written such that they would eliminate even recognition or security through civil unions.

Right.

I think in Missouri, you said after that vote that — [voters had done "the right thing" in passing the amendment]

I did. And I was not aware. I was unbriefed and I thought it was the same amendment we had in Massachusetts. And that's very simple. I just thought it was a simple prohibition and not one that excluded civil unions. Obviously, it'd be inconsistent. I am for civil unions and, therefore, I would not have voted for that had I been there. ... I just didn't know it went as far as it did and, obviously, I don't support it.

[Note: After the interview, this reporter learned that the Missouri initiative does not explicitly ban civil unions, as do the Michigan and Ohio initiatives. The Missouri amendment, however, is different from the Massachusetts amendment — which bans marriage but expressly creates the right to civil unions. This reporter contacted the Kerry campaign to try to clarify the question of whether Kerry would support a state constitutional amendment that just precluded same-sex marriage but did not — like Massachusetts — expressly provide for civil unions. Through an e-mail from a campaign staffer, Kerry, on Tuesday, responded this way: "It is not up to me what the people of any state decide. And I wouldn't presume to tell them what to do. What I will do, if asked, is tell people what my position is. I believe that gay and lesbian couples and families should be treated equally and fairly and I believe that that's best accomplished through civil unions."]

How often does this issue come up on the campaign trail? Do people ask you about it?

It's not coming up very much right now, no. It depends on where you are, but mostly people are talking about health care, and the war in Iraq, education, and jobs.

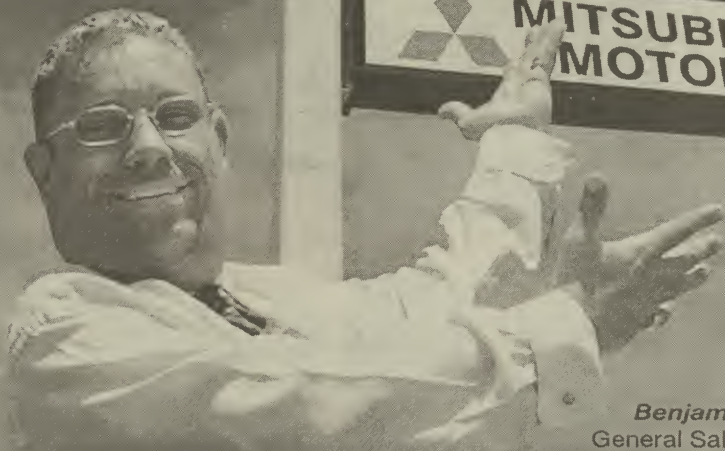
The polls would seem to indicate that it's kind of on a lower tier, but it is on the radar screen.

I think it's because the states are sort of dealing with it. And there's less sense of — I mean I know that within the community there's a sense of urgency and disappointment, and I understand that. But I think that politically right now — nationally the vast majority of people are focused on the outsourcing of jobs and their inability to pay their bills and survival, in a sense.

If you noticed the turnout in Missouri was much larger last month than expected, and many of the

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additional voters who showed up to vote seemed to show up specifically to vote for the marriage amendment.

Well, that's the Bush strategy. Sure. That's their strategy – to try to exploit.

Can you beat that?

Well, I'm going to have to. And you know we can't afford to have 60 percent of the community stay home like they did last time.

People are going to have to realize that what's at stake here is the Supreme Court of the United States. What's at stake is whether you're going to have a president who's prepared to fight for ENDA and fight for hate crimes [legislation], or one who's going to just let them sit there. So if people want to make progress in America, in terms of equal protection under the law and living up to our constitutional rights, this election is the most important election of our lifetime.

[Note: This reporter could find no data to support the notion that 60 percent of the gay community stayed home during the 2000 presidential election. Instead, precinct data collected by the Washington Blade from 118 precincts in heavily gay neighborhoods around the country suggested that 68 percent of registered voters in those heavily gay neighborhoods turned out to vote in 2000.]

Speaking of constitutional rights. Many of us see this issue – and I hate to keep hammering on gay marriage, but it is the one we feel most under siege about right now – the Constitution guarantees equal protection, but we see poll after poll saying most Americans – the latest said 60 percent – are opposed to letting gays have any kind of legal security or responsibility or benefits through marriage. As president, how would you reconcile those two different places?

Well, the presidency is the power of bully pulpit to some degree, and you have to talk reasonably to people. Look – you have to begin at a beginning. It took us a long time to pass the civil rights law. There was a huge filibuster against it. Nowadays, people couldn't conceive of why did we fight about that. It took us a long time for women to get the right to vote in America. You have to fight for things. And you pick a starting point and my starting point is to try to pass ENDA and try to pass hate crimes [legislation]. And you begin to educate people, and hopefully you change the climate and tone – it's been very exploitative in the last year or so. And you lead.

And would you do that for the gay community – try to –

I have. Why do you ask me if I'd do it?

As president. Would you do it as president?

Yes, and I told you what my priorities are going to be. I'm trying to be very honest about it. You've got to begin with ENDA and begin with hate crimes and proceed to grow people's understanding.

Okay, last question. I'm curious: If you had been born gay, how different do you think your life would be?

I can't tell you the answer to that question because I don't know what my – you know, I just can't tell you how I would have responded to it. Would I have been at the forefront of the crusade in the 1960s or would I still be, as some people are, living a double life or something, I don't know.

Could you have been in the military?

Uh, I can't tell you the answer to that. I can't speculate at all. There's no way for me to speculate on a life I haven't lived.

Well, gay people do it – speculate that if we were straight, maybe we could run for Senate or maybe we could –

Gay people run for the Senate.

They do now, but back when you were first starting out –

Gay people run for members of Congress. Gay people served beside me in Vietnam.

Is there anything else you –

Gay people have served in the military for years. For years, they've served in the military. I know this. This is what's important: I want an America in which people are loved and respected and not an America which has outcasts and discrimination and different layers of being an American or a human being. People are who they are, and America's greatest [strength] is that we honor that and can respect it.

I think, you know, and I've said this before, I think marriage raises a different issue in the

minds of a lot of people because of its deep religious foundations and institutional structure as the oldest institution in the world. It is the oldest institution in the world – older than country, older than our form of government, older than most forms of government. And people view it differently. What's important to me is not the terminology or the status; what's important to me are the rights. The rights. That you shouldn't be discriminated against in your right to visit a

partner in the hospital. You shouldn't be discriminated against in your right to leave property to somebody, if that's what you want. You shouldn't be discriminated against if you have a civil union relationship that affords you the same rights. Now, I think that's a huge step. There's never been a candidate for president who has stood up and said I think we should fight for those things. And you've got to progress. Even that, I take huge hits for. And you know, I stood up

on the floor of the Senate and voted against DOMA [Defense of Marriage Act] because I thought it was gay bashing on the floor of the United States Senate. I was one of 14 votes – the only person running for re-election who did that. So, I'm not going to take a second seat to anybody in my willingness to fight for what I think is right. But I do think you have to take things step by step, in a reasonable way, so you can achieve some progress and not go backwards. ▼

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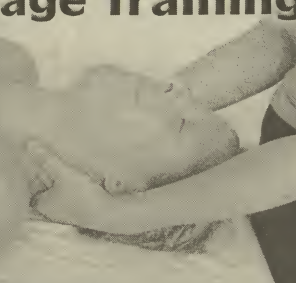
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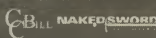
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AIDS fundraiser

◀ page 3

"What happened with the Pallotta stuff is they wouldn't agree to stay within budgetary controls or in the contracts we had with them," said Fred Dillon, the foundation's policy and communications director. "That is not the case at all with Walk the Talk. They have stayed within their budgets and stayed to the agreed upon terms in their contract."

Now that the foundation has taken on producing its AIDS LifeCycle in coordination with the L.A. Center, Dillon said the agency is glad it can rely on Walk the Talk to handle the marathons.

"We are grateful at not having to do another event ourselves in house," said Dillon. "As long as the company stays within budgetary controls and produces the event well, we are happy working with them."

Whether the company organizes two or three marathons per year, it is paid a flat annual fee of \$120,000. Out of the money raised to date, roughly \$1 million has

gone to local Bay Area AIDS agencies, \$1.5 million to global treatment efforts, and \$3 million went to the foundation.

The remaining \$4.6 million covered the expense of putting on the fundraiser. Most of the money paid for the airfare and hotel rooms for the runners, who sign up to either run the Honolulu Marathon or the Mardi Gras Marathon in New Orleans.

Linda Francisco, the associate program director for the marathon's Oakland office, said the company works hard to keep its expenses low. It does not put on the marathons, instead enrolling its runners in races produced by other entities.

"I know we run the program as efficiently as we can. Anytime you are looking to raise money, a certain amount of expenses need to be made. We work very hard to keep our expenses low," said Francisco.

Whereas Pallotta would use the AIDS bike rides to sell his company and products, Walk the Talk uses a different approach. Richard Zeichik, who founded the company, contacted Jeff Galloway, a for-

mer U.S. Olympic runner and author of a popular running book *Marathon*, to use his training methods for the AIDS marathons.

"We are using the model Jeff has put together. His business is getting people from the couch to the finish line safely," said Francisco, who has known Galloway since she ran a marathon program in Florida. "He has nothing to do with the fundraising or Walk the Talk."

Galloway's method combines running with walking and is credited with transforming people who have never run a race in their life into long distance runners. His program guarantees that 98 percent of the people who show up on race day will finish; for the last three years the SF marathons have had a 100 percent completion rate.

But the program does lose 35 to 37 percent of the people who initially sign up due to various reasons. Currently a group of 630 runners, down from the 820 who

signed up, are training and raising money for the December 12 Honolulu race. Training runs six months, with runners increasing the miles they run each weekend as they near race day.

As he waited to begin his practice run last Saturday in Golden Gate Park, Dale Scheller, 45, an operations manager from San Jose, said it was his third time in the program. Running partners with Hadley, he said the training "is incredible. You can't beat it because it is set up for success."

Hadley said she has found the fundraising — each runner must raise \$3,000 in order to participate — to be easy over the years and is pleased with how that money gets spent.

"The program did a good job of explaining how the money is broken down and where it goes," she said.

San Francisco resident Andy Chen, 34, an architect, has signed

up for four marathons over the last two years.

"It is a great thing to be doing. It keeps me healthy and it keeps you active," said Chen. "It is very well organized and the staff are great."

This weekend, Saturday, September 18 in Golden Gate Park and Sunday, September 19 in Berkeley's Marina, training begins for the Mardi Gras marathon on February 27. Francisco said she expects to start off with 400 registrants and anyone interested can still sign up.

Dillon, who has run in the marathons, said anyone can do it.

"I never would have thought I could run a marathon. I was never a runner and had run at most two miles," he said. "It amazed me I was able to do a marathon under five hours by the end of it."

For information, visit www.aidsmarathon.com or call (510) 451-4800. ▼

News in brief

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Inaugural Valencia Street Fair

Music, food, and fun await visitors to the first Valencia Street Fair, set for this Sunday, September 19 on Valencia Street between 20th and 22nd streets. Produced by LMR Productions, the free event takes place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Local bands, artists, fashion designers and local businesses will take part, along with restaurants and brewers. Organizer Liz Ross hopes the fair will celebrate the rich culture of the area.

For more information, visit www.valenciastreetfair.com.

Forum on body image

The San Francisco Gay Men's Community Initiative will host a public forum on body image Wednesday, September 22 at 7 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street in San Francisco. Entitled "Mirror, mirror on the wall — is body image a fetish among gay men?" the forum will look at issues such as whether body image helps or hurts people as individuals as well as the community and whether it keeps people further apart emotionally.

The GMCI, a new group started earlier this year, expects to have a panel of professionals as well as ordinary men from the community address the topic. For more information e-mail sfgmci@yahoo.com.

com or call (415) 552-9393.

Job fair

The LGBT Community Center will hold its next job fair Thursday, September 23, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the center, 1800 Market Street in San Francisco. This third job fair will feature job opportunities in the fields of technology, customer service, sales, and administration.

Ken Stram, the director of economic development at the center, noted that 360 job seekers attended the last job fair a few months ago, and more than a dozen Bay Area employers participated.

For more information, call David Bach at (415) 865-5534 or visit www.sfccenter.org. ▼

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OBITUARIES

Ransom Berne Friend, Jr. (Randy)

Ransom Berne Friend, Jr. (Randy), 80, of Orinda, California, died Friday, July 23, 2004, at Bay Point Nursing Home in Hayward, California.

Born January 1, 1924, in Fairmont, West Virginia, he was the son of the late Ransom Berne Friend and Ruby S. Hall. He graduated from Harrisville (W. Va.) High School, Class of 1942.

He is survived by a brother, Owen L. Friend and wife Edna of Parkersburg, West Virginia; a niece, Sharon Henderson and husband Albert of Matinsburg, West Virginia; a nephew, Larry Friend of Charleston, West Virginia; two great-nieces, Christy Jamison and husband Kristian of Morgantown, West Virginia, and Lisa Henderson of Alexandria, Virginia; and two great-nephews, Bret Friend, wife Beth and children Justin and Molly of Traverse City, Michigan, and Jonathan Friend, wife Michelle and son Owen of Charleston, West Virginia.

A 50-year resident of the San Francisco area, Mr. Friend had worked in the offices of the University of California at Berkeley, Spreckles Sugar Company, and the General Steamship Company. He

had resided at the Orinda Senior Village for the past 12 years.

Funeral arrangements were made by Mission Memorial Funeral Home, Campbell, California. Private interment will be in the Hardman Chapel cemetery in Smithville, West Virginia.

Randy worked at the EndUp from the day it opened in 1973. He performed many different duties over the years, and finished his last days in the Coat Check. He was a staple at the EndUp and always had a smile and a snack for the patrons of the bar. Randy saw many changes to the EndUp over the years and through them all he endured. He also watched many of us grow up coming to the EndUp. We all loved him and he will be greatly missed by the staff as well as many of the EndUp family. He was one of a kind.

Joel A. Gerughty
September 27, 1943 —
August 31, 2004

Born in Lansing, Michigan, but most definitely a citizen of San Francisco since the early '60s, Joel died suddenly one month before his 61st birthday.

Joel's collapse while having fun at



the opera and symphony, politics, trivia, and living large.

Joel leaves bereft two brothers and a sister in Michigan, his partner Gary, past loves Tony and Gus, his beloved cat, Felix and dear and loving friends like Andy, Colin, Kim, Robert, Tim, Wade, and many, many more. He was Carol's best friend for 34 years and, as promised many times to Joel, she has taken Felix to her home where they will remember Joel together.

During the past decade, Joel worked at the Great Pacific Tour Company, and Project Open Hand.

A memorial event in keeping with Joel's style is being planned for the end of the month. Contact his friends for details. In lieu of flowers, donations in Joel's memory may be made to Project

a GPTC bowling party was a painful shock to his many long-time close friends. A multifaceted, intensely involved man, Joel's interests spanned a breadth of areas from being a news junkie, to reading,

Open Hand, 730 Polk St. SF 94109. (www.openhand.org)

Tommy Kohl (aka Sister Sindy Vine)

Tommy Kohl, aka Sister Sindy Vine of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc., San Francisco, born February 19, 1941, passed away August 17, 2004 of AIDS and cancer. A life-long resident of Oakland, he was predeceased by his parents, Roland "Ole" and Frances "Frankie" Kohl, and beloved older brother Terry.

Tommy became a cosmetologist and had a wonderful career of 44 years as a hair stylist. Tommy's clientele ranged from "the people who owned the streets to those who walked them."

In the '60s and '70s as part of his personal "Magical Mystery Tour", he was one of the first male nude models on the public stage, helping the Castro become what it is today. He participated in many ground-breaking gay and lesbian productions staged by the Society for Individual Rights (SIR) at their center in San Francisco. He was a close, loving friend of The Cockettes, who named his East

Bay commune "The Oakettes" — the locale for many memorable parties.

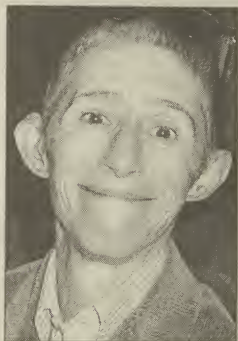
Tommy lost many of his loved friends to the AIDS epidemic, but the love and joy in his heart saw him through. To lift the spirit of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender communities, he worked diligently to become a Sister of Perpetual Indulgence as well as their personal photographer. His work helped raise thousands of dollars for AIDS, breast cancer, and gay and lesbian youth.

His friends, family and community will miss Tommy, his wonderful smile and sense of humor. He suggests you carry on his memory by naming your next pet (or child) "Tommy". That way he will hear you call "Tommy, Tommy come here" and smile down on you.

Tommy is survived by his sisters Sonita Sterger and Joan Hall, nephews and nieces Danny, Jeffery, Ashley and Shaelyn, the sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and dearest friends Marty Swank, Bob Kayser, Don Martin, Lee Wentley, Frank Hubach, Jane Pitts, Brian Muller, Terese Allara, Carmen Fuchs, and others too numerous to list.

Contributions may be made in Tommy's honor to the AIDS Memorial (c/o Tommy Kohl) for his name to be added to the AIDS Memorial Grove Circle of Friends.

There will be a celebration in honor of Tommy's life Sunday Sept. 19 at noon at Kennedy Grove in El Sabronite.

Activist Mary Gennoy dies at 53

Mary Gennoy

by Liz Highleyman

Community activist and long-time medical marijuana advocate Mary Elaine Gennoy died on Sunday, September 5, due to complications following throat surgery. She was 53.

Ms. Gennoy was born June 11, 1951, and raised in Alameda. She was born with multiple congenital disabilities, believed to be due to radiation treatments her mother received for cancer while she was pregnant.

"Mary showed much courage and strength as she endured numerous surgeries, life-threatening

illnesses, and pain during her life," said Michael Aldrich, one of Ms. Gennoy's caregivers during her final months.

Ms. Gennoy attended San Francisco State University from 1979 through 1984, where she took courses in women's studies. "She loved to read and philosophize about gay and women's issues," said longtime friend Susan Ray, adding that Ms. Gennoy embraced Wicca and Goddess spirituality.

Passionate about social reform, Ms. Gennoy was an ever-present figure at countless demonstrations and protests around San Francisco.

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For more information about this forum or any positiveforce event please call 415.575-0150 x231.

STOP
PROJECT

Monster's ball

by Jim Provenzano

NFL season has started. Frankly, I'd prefer a nice rugby match any day.

But you might love football. Even if you don't, as a Bay Area, you should care about the fate of the 49ers' stadium. Candlestick Park, er, 3Com Park, now Candlestick again, may soon become Monster Park; that is, if the Brisbane-based Monster Cable Products buys the rights to name the football stadium after itself.

"Monster is definitely one of the significant players in the naming-rights contest," 49ers spokesman Sam Singer told the *San Francisco Chronicle*. But, Singer said, "The deal is not finalized, and there are other players in the hunt."

Strangely — well, not for San Francisco politics — we voters may have a say in whether 'Stick/3Com/'Stick gets a new name at the November 2 election, where the most important issue (aside from four more years of Chimp) is whether to sell naming rights to the 'Stick. Proposition H on the ballot seeks to block

any name change. The 49ers, according to the *Chronicle*, contend the ballot vote would be moot if a contract were in place before the November vote.

Here are my nominees for a new name for the 'Stick:

1. **Fred.** It's just a nice name. All the Freds of the Bay Area can chip in, and get free hot dogs.

2. **The Absolutely Fabulous Wonderpark Fulla Fun!**

Sure, it'll need a makeover to qualify for the name, perhaps a week's worth of *Extreme Home Makeover* and "Queer Eye for the Straight Stadium" in a battle royale of design queens, but hey. We've got \$500 million in city funds to renovate, so why not go with the best? The city could sell the dual broadcast rights, and voila! A hefty profit, and Neilson ratings to boot.

3. **Wind in the Willows.** To make the somewhat breezy park more environmentally coordinated with the surrounding bay, natural growth of vines, plants, and

wildlife can be mixed in with the exterior and the concession stands. Graze with a whippoorwill. You can catcall lousy passes as a flock of sandpipers scurry about in the end zone. Think *Logan's Run* meets *Biodome*.

A more pressing problem is the financial issue facing the park. What with all those days and nights lying dormant, the once and future Monster 'Stick isn't bringing in the cash on those off days. City officials are trying to think up ideas for making more revenue from the stadium.

Here are a few fun-filled alternative sports programs that can bring in revenue, and keep San Francisco's reputation as the Paris of the Pacific. To reflect the election year, some events can have a political edge:

The Frank Francisco Chair Toss. The Texas Rangers pitcher threw a chair into the stands at a September 13 Oakland A's game, resulting in a full tilt brawl. Francisco was arrested and charged with aggravated battery. A female fan suffered a broken nose.

Why should East Bay baseball fans have all the fun (and potential concussions)? How about a little competition in which fans get to throw chairs at Francisco, who will be tied to a chair at the 50-yard line? Sliders are easy, so overhead tosses with highest parabola get extra points.

Throw Like a Girlie Man. Special guest Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger will be kidnapped and tied to a goal post, where lesbian, gay, transgender, and just straight but annoyed softball players will compete to hurl 75-mile per hour fast pitch softballs at the gubernatorial gonads. The hit that gets Ah-node to confess that he never actually saw Soviet tanks rolling into Austria gets to be the first person on the next recall ballot, after Gary Coleman.

Terrell Owens Rat Amazing Maze. When asked in the September issue of *Playboy* if he thought former 49ers quarterback Jeff Garcia is gay, Owens replied, "Like my boy tells me: If it looks like a rat and smells like a rat, by golly, it is a rat." To commemorate the (thankfully also) former 49er, Owens will be flown in via helicopter and dumped into an enormous rat maze. Fans will throw chunks of cheese to distract him from finding his way out. But look



Stick-y situation: This space for rent?

out! At the end of the maze is a giant Minotaur (played by Mr. Blatino Husbear 1999, Alfonso Babanco III, who will be armed with a bottle of Viagra).

Guest Coach Night. The Bush administration's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, was in a VIP box at the Panthers-Packers football games Monday night. The Stanford graduate is a pigskin fan. Quelle surprise. So nice that she has a lot of free time in the middle of all this distracting global terrorism and daily massacres in Iraq.

In honor of her vague testimony at the 9-11 commission hearings, Condi can be the first guest coach at a 49ers game. She can call some bad plays, then claim she didn't see the playbook Richard Clarke gave her months beforehand.

Flip-Flop Fridays. Republicans have said much about Senator John Kerry's "flip-flop" in support of, then against, the Iraq War. But more astute political watchers know that President Bush actually holds quite a record in that category.

To visualize this, a giant pancake griddle will be brought out, and the Bay Area's Republicans will be bounced on the giant trampoline-like griddle for every Bush flip-flop announced over the loudspeakers, which include: Creation of the 9/11 commission, funding of the 9/11 commission, cooperation with the 9/11 commission, gay marriage, patient's bill of rights, medical privacy, tobacco, prescription drug coverage, creation of a commission to investigate intelligence failures on Iraq, consulting the United Nations before waging war in Iraq,

involvement of U.N. in Iraq, catching Osama bin Laden ...

Flippity-floppity! Come to think of it, the stadium should be booked for an entire weekend for this event.

Mass Re-Wedding. While it was wonderful for Mayor Gavin Newsom to allow about 4,000 LGBT couples to wed at City Hall this past Valentine's Day and for a few weeks afterward, unfortunately, the marriage licenses have been invalidated by the state Supreme Court. When they are eventually allowed to remarry, all the couples can get married at once on the 'Stick's football field.

Couples who have only been together for a few months can sit in the first 50 rows of stands, and perform a vow of mutual semi-monogamy. First-time dates will get the seats above that, and tricks who met online can hook up in the upper level. After the wedded ones amble home, the hot and horny singles can dance the night away at a giant outdoor circuit party. DJ Meth Thing spins, and spins and spins, until his eyeballs roll into the back of his head. Following that, New Leaf can host a "Hangover Recovery Brunch" at noon.

Monster Car Bash. The over 750 women given free cars on the season premiere of *Oprah* will compete in a cross-country race to the parking lot, after which they will all rush to mid-field and shriek in unison until the entire stadium collapses, giving the city a perfect excuse to build a new one. Free earplugs for the kids! ▼

Check out previous columns at www.sportscomplex.org

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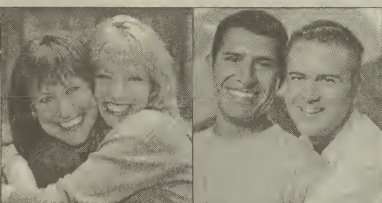
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Party at sea



Donna Sachet, center, joins with the Lollipop Guild and Vocal Minority — ensembles with the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus — during the chorus' "Almost Anything Goes" concert aboard a Hornblower cruise on San Francisco Bay Sunday, September 12. The event marked an early start for the chorus' music season.

Nitke

◀ page 2

general public, \$5 for members of Janus and reciprocal leather organizations).

That same evening, from 7 to 10 p.m., Chester and Queen will host a fundraising house party featuring Nitke and other special guests (call 415-255-1155 for details and to RSVP).

On Tuesday, September 21, Nitke will discuss and sign copies of her new fine art photography book, *Kiss of Fire: A Romantic View of Sodomasochism*, at Good Vibrations, 603 Valencia Street, from 8 to 10 p.m. (free).

On Wednesday, a "Sex, Art & Politics Community" benefit will take place from 7 to 10 p.m., also at the Citadel. Along with Nitke, the event promises presentations by "a host of the most important and edgiest photographers in the Bay Area radical sex scene," including Blue and Midori, McCabe, Phyllis Christopher, Charles

Gatewood, and Fakir Musafar (donation \$10-20).

Finally, Chester's studio will be open during Folsom Street Fair weekend, September 25-26, providing another opportunity to view the "Sex, Art & Politics" photography exhibit.

Hailed by the *Village Voice* for her quest "to find humanity in marginal sex," Nitke has been photographing the sexual underground since 1982 and the SM scene since 1994.

"My goal has always been to capture not just the deep intimacy and trust between lovers, but also the intense energy and passion of SM practices," said Nitke. "Everyone I've photographed has taught me something new about the nature of sexual desire, humanity, and the fact that no matter how we're wired to express love, freedom is having the courage to be who we are."

For more information about Nitke's San Francisco appearances, visit www.mcheester.best.vwh.net/nitke.html. ▼

Transmissions

◀ page 8

who dress as women, pretend to be something they are not, and are going to steal your boyfriend are the accepted norm.

I also suspect that shows like *Awful Pretty* and *He's a Lady* will only reinforce the longstanding assumptions of many in the feminist movement that transgender people — primarily transsexuals — are simply enforcing feminine stereotypes. Again, we end up back at *Cosmo* quizzes, a concept of femininity that seems to largely exist only within the television.

Both TBS and UPN will now take these stereotypes to a new level, injecting them into the reality genre, and turning individuals with little or no transgender history or identity into the stereotypical transgender person. My reality will be even further diminished.

Now the good news: *Awful Pretty* and *He's a Lady* require the stereotypes to work. They need *Cosmo* quizzes in order to show what a woman supposedly is, and

the "men in dresses" have to look like "men in dresses." They also cannot escape the stereotypes they have a hand in creating.

They cannot escape one more thing: the will of the viewers. In order for such programs to survive, they need to be watched. We can reject these shows, cutting into their all-important market share, and hurting their chances for advertising revenue. I'm not going to ask you to boycott — but do consider opting for other programs on other networks.

I've saved the best news for last: even if these shows manage to survive, even flourish, their affect on transgender stereotypes will not last forever. Just as racial stereotypes fostered by television and radio have been largely swept aside, so too will the sexual and gender stereotypes that we deal with today. ▼

Gwen Smith has never once taken a *Cosmo* quiz, and is not about to start. You can find her on the World Wide Web at www.gwensmith.com.

Mary Gennoy

◀ page 17

co, often seen in her wheelchair bedecked with political stickers. She was an advocate for LGBT rights, elderly and disabled people's rights, and the environment. In 2000, she ran as a write-in candidate for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

"A walk down Castro Street with Mary in her chair was a wonderful experience," said Aldrich. "Every second or third person we passed would stop and say, 'Mary, how are you, where've you been?' She was much loved."

Unable to take many pain medications, Ms. Gennoy found relief through medical cannabis, and became an advocate for marijuana drug law reform and an outspoken opponent of law enforcement raids against medical marijuana patients and providers.

"If you were born like me, you'd have no choice," Ms. Gennoy told the *San Francisco Examiner* in March 1998. "You'd just do it. There have been times when I've almost died, and I really need this to help me out."

"Mary was a very powerful advocate for medical marijuana and her own story was very compelling," said District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty. "We've lost a wonderful friend."

Ms. Gennoy was involved with the leather community and was a member of the Exiles. She often rode with the Women's Motorcycle Contingent in the San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade, clad in her beloved black leather jacket. She was also a member of the Montclair Women's Music Collective and a fan of women's music festivals and of the San Francisco Giants and 49ers. Before she was hospitalized this summer, Ms. Gennoy lived with her three cats in a studio apartment near Duboce Park.

"Mary was a tremendously powerful force to be reckoned with," said Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco). "Her heartfelt passion and commitment to important issues made her a giant among many. She will be deeply missed by those whose lives she touched."

Ms. Gennoy is survived by her mother, Doris Elaine Gilla; her father and stepmother, William and Elizabeth Gennoy; her sister and brother-in-law, Jane and Tom Diemeyer; and four nephews.

In her will, Ms. Gennoy requested that she be cremated and that her ashes be buried in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

A memorial celebration of Ms. Gennoy's life will take place this Saturday, September 18, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the home of Dennis Peron, 3745 17th Street in San Francisco. ▼

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LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

VACANCY NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: www.sfgov.org/bdsuprvs

Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

TREASURE ISLAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Treasure Island Development Authority Citizens Advisory Board is comprised of 25 persons, 11 of whom shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors and 14 of whom shall be appointed by the Mayor.

The purpose of the Treasure Island Development Authority Citizens Advisory Board is to gather public input and opinion from diverse communities in San Francisco and to provide additional expertise to the Treasure Island Development Authority. Specifically, the CAB will provide recommendations to the Authority concerning the final reviews and implementation of the draft reuse plan dated July 1996, policies and objectives for interim reuses, and other matters of importance to the future of Treasure Island and all citizens of San Francisco as the Board of Directors of the Authority may refer to the CAB from time to time. In providing advice and recommendations, the CAB shall strive to reflect the values and interests of the various communities in the City. Sunset Date: None referenced. Compensation: None referenced.

Vacant seat, succeeding Manuel Jimenez, resigned, seat 6, must possess any of the following qualifications: land use and urban planning and architecture; transportation planning and alternative and mass transit; historic conservation and preservation; engineering and construction; real estate development and financing; economic development and job generation and organized labor; first-source hiring, welfare-to-work and other job broker programs; affordable and low-income housing; marine related activities; natural resource preservation and conservation; environmental and toxic remediation and control; tideland trust and public access; open meeting laws; recreational and athletic opportunities and programs; representative of public safety officers on Treasure Island; representative of THIDL; representative of Job Corps; Representative of Treasure Island Elementary School; representative of film production industry; and representative of residential tenants on Treasure Island, for the unexpired portion of a four-year term ending January 1, 2005.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION

COME PARTICIPATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION'S BROWN BAG LUNCH TALKS at 1660 Mission Street, Room 2001 (second floor), Thursdays, Noon to 1:30 PM.

The Department welcomes you to attend a series of informal, general information talks presented at no charge to the public and City staff. Bring your lunch; coffee and other drinks will be provided. September 16, 2004

Unreasonable Hardships, Exceptions and Equivalencies for Disabled Access Technical Services Department and Disabled Access Department

NOTE: Persons unable to attend are invited to mail their comments or questions, to request materials hand out, or to call and speak with department staff. Please contact Laurel Kornfeld, Chief Building Inspector, Technical Services Division at (415) 558-6205 for further information.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541518

In the matter of the application of Diane Gong for change of name. The application of Diane Gong for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Diane Gong has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Olive Gong. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 28th day of October, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEP. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0278627-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rubio Chocolates, 740-B Shrader St., San Francisco, CA. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Salina M. Rubio. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8-19-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-19-04.

SEP. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0278540-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Meakim & Stern Spinal Care, 505 Beach St., Ste. #110 San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Jamie K. Stern & Christina Meakim. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8-17-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-17-04.

SEP. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0278402-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 818 Hard Wood Floor, 755 Prague St. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Quoc Vi Phung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8-11-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-11-04.

SEP. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004



STATEMENT FILE A-0278564-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: San Francisco School of Samba, 4118 21st Street San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Sidney Teixeira. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 08-10-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-18-04.

AUG. 26 SEPT. 2, 9, 16 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541516

In the matter of the application of Erin Nicole Cooper for change of name. The application of Erin Nicole Cooper for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Erin Nicole Cooper has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Erin Iris Nicole Fae. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day of October, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEP. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541536

In the matter of the application of Elizabeth Jaleh Yaghoubi for change of name. The application of Elizabeth Jaleh Yaghoubi for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Elizabeth Jaleh Yaghoubi has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Elizabeth Anne Yaghoubi. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 28th day of October, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEP. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541550

In the matter of the application of Steve Susoeff for change of name. The application of Steve Susoeff for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Steve Susoeff has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Steve Susoyev. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 16th day of November, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEP. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541503

In the matter of the application of Carl Wilford Labante for change of name. The application of Carl Wilford Labante for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Carl Wilford Labante has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Carl Baughman. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the fourteenth day of October, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

AUG. 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 9 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0278667-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Luxurious Nail Salon, 564 Market St., Ste. 500 San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Tran Dung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8-23-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-23-04.

AUG. 26 SEPT. 2, 9, 16 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0278581-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: BWSM, 892 A 42nd Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Boris Shykhov. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 08-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-18-04.

AUG. 26 SEPT. 2, 9, 16 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541542

In the matter of the application of Catherine Emi Izuio for change of name. The application of Catherine Emi Izuio for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Catherine Emi Izuio has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jadeblue Lotos. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of November, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEP. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541535

In the matter of the application of Saul Juan Antonio Leyva for change of name. The application of Saul Juan Antonio Leyva for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Saul Juan Antonio Leyva has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Rafael Leyva-Lara. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of November, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEP. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541505
In the matter of the application of Luis Roberto Seckman Leber for change of name. The application of Luis Roberto Seckman Leber for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Luis Roberto Seckman Leber has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Vincent Luis Seckman. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the twelfth day of October, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
AUG. 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 9 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541511
In the matter of the application of Vida Lynne Caputo for change of name. The application of Vida Lynne Caputo for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Vida Lynne Caputo has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Vida Lynne Morgan. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day, 2004 of October at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
AUG. 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 9 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0278655-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Gerwhit Enterprises/Gerridew's Gifts, 146 McAllister St., #406 San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Gerald D. White. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 08-20-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-20-04.
AUG. 26 SEPT. 2, 9, 16 2004

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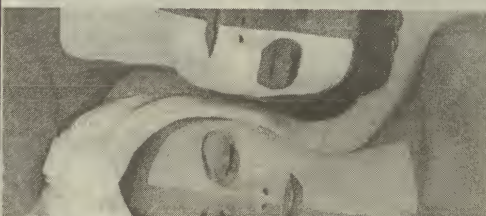
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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0278724-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Innovative Process Technology Group, 738 Clipper St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Ralf Oelschlaeger. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 08-24-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08-24-04.
SEPT. 2, 9, 16, 23 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0278761-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Suro Information Technology, 1515 Willard St. San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Glen Gertnerman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 08-25-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-25-04.
SEPT. 2, 9, 16, 23 2004

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are: Gujral Ashok Kumar. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 53 West Portal Ave. San Francisco, Ca 94127. Type of License applied for:
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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0279073-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: CHL Hardwood Floor 70 Winding Way San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Lou Chi-Hang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7-19-00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-08-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279077-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Angela's Cleaning Service 419 Holloway Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a husband and wife, signed William Cornejo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-08-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-08-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279065-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: NCT Food & Entertainment 208 Pennsylvania St. #106 San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Samaria A. Peralta. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-07-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-07-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0278806-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Eye Carumba Optometry Four Embarcadero Center, Lobby Level San Francisco, Ca. 94111. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Paul G. Irving. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8-19-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-26-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279066-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Enhanced Sales Potential 4406 18th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed John Musser. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7-26-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-07-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279066-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Enhanced Sales Potential 4406 18th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed John Musser. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7-26-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-07-04.

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0279243-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Excellent Automotive Service and Re-
pair 740 Valencia Street, San Francisco,
Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by
an incorporation, signed Ronald J. Mallia.
The registrant(s) commenced to transact
business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on 08-12-04. The
statement was filed with the City and County
of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-14-04.
AUG. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0278458-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Ralph's Cleaning Service, 1510 Eddy
Street, #1107 San Francisco, Ca. 94115.
This business is conducted by an individual,
signed Zhou Yu Di. The registrant(s) com-
menced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on 08-12-04. The statement was filed
with the City and County of San Francisco,
Ca. on 8-13-04.
AUG. 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 9 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0278521-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Phil Diers - Sculptor, 1362 Hayes Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed Phillip
J. Dier. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on 08-
01-91. The statement was filed with the
City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on
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AUG. 19, 26 SEPT. 2, 9 2004

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SF Opera's 'Cosi fan
tutte' needs to lighten up!
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 38 • 16 September 2004



Kooky characters: Dianne Wiest, above, and Stanislas Merhar, right, play the opera diva and the phone sex addict, in *Merci Docteur Rey*

SEND IN THE FARCE 'MERCİ DOCTEUR REY' GOES WHERE FEW HAVE DARED

by Brandon Judell

The 15th floor of the Mayflower Hotel is in overdrive. TV crews, press, and publicists are going in one direction, actors and a hunky director in another. Add scurrying hotel staff, a view of Central Park, and you have the all-out press junket for *Merci Docteur Rey*, a mostly English-language comedy produced by the Merchant/Ivory team, which was filmed in Paris by an American expatriate who left the US to follow a French boyfriend 17 years ago. The beau immediately dumped him, but I'll get to that later.

First, the plot. Paris-based Thomas Beaumont

(Stanislas Merhar) is a young, closeted, gay phone-sex addict, who believes he's the son of a famous America opera diva (Dianne Wiest) and a dead man. He's half right.

One night, while trying to get hitched up, he's talked into a strange liaison. For money, he's to sit in a closet and watch an older man have sex with a younger chap. He complies, only to see the older man murdered. The next day, he discovers the stabbed Lothario was his father. Rightly upset, Thomas goes to a shrink, Dr. Rey, who he's never seen before. Little does he know that Dr. Rey is dead and lying under her desk. Instead, he's being treated by Penelope (Jane Birkin), a former actress who, for a living, dubs Vanessa Redgrave into French.

Don't get upset. I really haven't spoiled the film for you. This is just the first 10 minutes or so.

Back to reality and the French boyfriend. According to first-time director Andrew Litvak, 40: "I was 23, and he was with me during my last two years at Williams College in Massachusetts. So I went back with him to Paris on my graduation. We quickly broke up, and then the question was whether I should come back, sort of like a dog with his tail between his legs, or stay on. At that point, I started learning French well enough. I guess it was after my second year there, I could start actually speaking at a dinner parties, which is a huge step."

After dinner parties came a job subtitling French films into English, then a few chores for director James Ivory, and finally the writing of his own screenplay and helming of his first movie.

So what about the perverse side of this film? A young man getting ready to watch his dad copulate?

"Oh, yeah," the hairy-chested Litvak says. "There are people who are totally put off by it. For me, the way to extricate myself from that whole problem is that I just say, 'Well, it's a movie in which fantasies

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THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF GWYNETH PALTROW BRINGING 'SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMORROW' INTO OUR DIMENSION

by Tim Nasson

I recently spent a morning with Academy Award-winning, cross-dressing (*Shakespeare in Love*) actress Gwyneth Paltrow, the day before she appeared on *Oprah* along with Jude Law, her co-star in the new film *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*.

Paltrow has come a long way from her days spent in a specially constructed, air-conditioned baby-stroller on the sets of her mother's (Blythe Danner) movies and plays, or visiting her father, the late TV producer Bruce Paltrow (*St. Elsewhere*), on the sets of his popular shows.

It wasn't until 1983, when Paltrow trekked with her family across the country from LA to Massachusetts, so that her dad could come produce summer-stock shows in the Berkshires, that she got bitten by the acting bug.

"My parents were so supportive," said Paltrow, 33, about the encouragement she received when she told her parents she wanted to act.

At 19, Paltrow quit college (UCSB), where she was majoring in Art History, to pursue a full-time acting career. "I didn't know it was the right decision at the time," she says, "but I knew that Art History was not for me. Thank God acting has been so good to me."

She had a bit part in *Se7en*, where she got to know and became engaged to the film's star, Brad Pitt. That was nearly a decade ago. Since then, she has seemed to accomplish it all — and lose a few things on the way. She broke up with Pitt, "because we would not be able to keep our marriage a happy one while at the same time pursuing our careers," was voted "Most Stuck Up" in *Movieline's* "100 Most Stuck Up Actors," dated Ben Affleck, was voted one of *People* magazine's "50 Most Beautiful," modeled for Calvin Klein, lost the role of Rose to Kate Winslet in *Titanic*, turned down the role of Emma Peel in *The Avengers*, spent a Thanksgiving with Stephen Spielberg and wife Kate Capshaw in the Hamptons, was a member of Madonna's wedding party, became a vege-

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Into the future: *Sky Captain* star Gwyneth Paltrow

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

Shotgun's apocalypse

Liz Duffy Adams' 'Dog Act' at Thick House

by Richard Dodds

Post-apocalypse is a popular genre for young playwrights who get to create a world rather than work with the one we are in. Anything goes, and the results sometimes end in audience abuse. An exception is Liz Duffy Adams' *Dog Act*, a play that threads remnants of a contemporary culture into a patchwork of a daffy new society.

Adams' play is having its world premiere in a Shotgun Players production at the Thick House, that then moves to the Ashby Stage in Berkeley later this month. This may be a breakthrough play for Adams, who has had numerous plays produced at smaller theaters, but who has yet to take the next big step up the ladder.

Shotgun is providing a sharp production that provides a beguiling introduction to the play. (For ticket info, call 510-841-6500 or go to shotgunplayers.org.)

A New Yorker for all of her adult life, Adams has found a second theatrical home in San Francisco where her plays have been produced by Crowded Fire and Cutting Ball theaters in addition to Shotgun.

"It all started about two years ago," Adams said. "I had no connection with San Francisco at all, and *Dog Act* was accepted at the Playwrights Festival. I just got to know a million people and it all took off from there."

Cutting Ball staged *Wet, or Isabella the Pirate Queen Enters the Horse Latitudes*, which Adams calls "a pseudo historical play", and Crowded Fire presented *The Train Play*, which "sort of straddles an apocalyptic event." In the spring, Crowded Fire will produce the premiere of *Lower Case Gods*, a play that looks at the abuse of power from the ancient world to the near future.



Backstage

Worlds in decay

Apocalypses

There is something fascinating about the idea of ordinary life being radically disrupted and then what happens between people," she said. "If you have to start over, what kind of political systems rise instinctively?"

While apocalypses are generally considered serious business, Adams describes *Dog Act* as "a kind of futuristic backstage comedy." In the play, society has splintered into various tribes that have their own customs, rules, and connections to pre-apocalypse civilization. The Scavengers, for example, are recyclers to a fault, speak in a poetry liberally sprinkled with profanity, and worship a deity known as The Wendy.

"The idea," Adams explained, "is that they have scavenged as a basis of their culture three sources. One is the word 'fuck,' one of those all-purpose words that will survive like cockroaches. Another is Shakespeare, and then there's 'Peter Pan.'"

But the principal characters of *Dog Act* are members of the wandering vaudevillian tribe, a group with a protected status because they are considered the keepers of history. Not that accuracy is necessarily a key component, at least not in the shows that Rozetta Stone and her assistant Dog perform. In their story of Adam and Even, the Bible and Darwinism get all tangled up.



Post-apocalyptic vaudevillians Richard Bolster and Beth Donohue.

Rozetta and Dog have their own variation on the English language that mirrors the cultural detritus that fills their show wagon.

"There's this sense of archeology in her language as well, all of which comes out of thinking of her as a character," the playwright said. "It's not random. As I am exploring how she speaks, that begins to tell me more about who she is."

Adams is generally disinterested in using traditional romance as main plot point because "it's been done to death. I've been kind of attracted to depicting same-sex romance because at least it's a little bit more interesting. *Dog Act* is one of very few of my plays that doesn't at least have a same-sex kiss. I'm more or less hetero, but I'm one of those people who feel human sexuality is more on a continuum than an oppositional thing."

Inner worlds

Adams creates worlds that she calls "fantastical," a passion that goes back to a confusing childhood in Massachusetts. "I experienced my childhood as highly stressful, and my sisters and my brother and I were kind of left to our own devices off on our own before my family did finally fall apart. The upside was that we lived in these woods that were absolutely beautiful. It was sort of a fairy tale setting in that there were ogres but there were also fairies and unicorns, not to sound too twee."

Adams dealt with the strained family dynamics by pulling inwards. "I was very shy and I read obsessively and daydreamed. I do think that is what probably made me a writer and definitely influences my work."

She had intended to be an actress, and tried her luck in the commercial NY theater. "It was just awful," she said. "To get back

in charge of my creative life, I wrote a play. It got produced off-off-Broadway. On the basis of that play I went to grad school and kept writing."

"It was such a relief to have found that this is what I can do because it sort of redeems everything. Every insane choice and every wrong turn and every lost year and every disaster partaken of, it's all grist for the mill."

Short scenes

Alan Bennett's *Single Spies*, a play about homo British cold-war spies opens Sept. 25 at Theatre Rhino. Also at Rhino, a return of *Awe About Eve* is replacing John Fisher's *Barbecue Murders* in the Oct. 28? Nov. 21 slot. Call 861-5079 or go to therhino.org.

Playwright Terrence McNally will conduct *A Conversation with Barry Humphries* — AKA Dame Edna — the Man Behind the Woman at New Conservatory Theatre Center on Oct. 4. Proceeds will benefit NCTC's youth programs. Call 861-8972 or go to nctcsf.org.

NCTC continues its Pride season with *Pageant*, the musical spoof of beauty pageants starring an all-male cast including Trauma Flintstone and Patrick Michael Dukeman. Opening Sept. 18, this production marks the debut of new theater seats in the largest of NCTC's three theaters.

Richard Greenberg's *The Violator Hour* arrived on Broadway after his gay baseball drama *Take Me Out*, but it arrives first in SF. The Jazz Age comedy about a conflicted publisher, his Josephine Baker-like lover, and an F. Scott Fitzgerald-type writer opens Sept. 17 at the SF Playhouse near Union Square. Call 677-9596 or go to sfplayhouse.org.

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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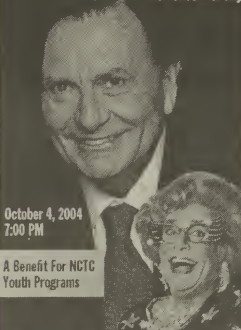
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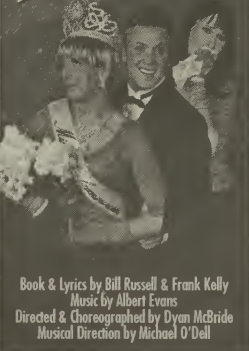
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OPERA

It's comedy, idiot!

War's reality dims 'Cosi fan tutte'

By Stephanie von Buchau

Mozart and Da Ponte's *Cosi fan tutte*, the most delicious sex comedy ever written — with equal emphasis on “delicious,” “sex” and “comedy” — shocked the world for many decades. With its frank misogyny, casual infidelities and basically unbridled sexuality, the opera was considered frivolous, cruel and immoral for all of the 19th and half of the 20th century.

We know better now, or at least I thought we did until San Francisco Opera got its mitts on the new *Cosi* production (originated at Opera Monte Carlo) which opened the season on Saturday. Once again we are confronted with “Regietheater” in all its academic pomposity. Director John Cox’s “deconstruction” (outlined in the program) settles on the idea that Don Alfonso’s “war” is real, in fact WW I. Cox sets the opera in a Mediterranean gambling resort (read: Monte Carlo) in 1914.

Robert Perdziola’s painted set of a hotel overlooking a gorgeous bay, a beach full of striped umbrellas, boats with lighted rigging and a vast marble terrace that converts from outdoors to indoors with a few moving set pieces and props, all of it dripping with vermillion wisteria, is gorgeous. Most of his costumes are witty, though occasional self-con-

sciousness spoils the effect. (For instance, does Fiordiligi’s evening dress have to be frumpy in order to convey her essential seriousness?)

Then Cox comes up with his “reality” idea. After the boys go off to “war” (it’s still a joke at this point), the hotel becomes a Red Cross staging area. The girls are volunteer nurses and the atmosphere is distinctly queasy. By adding the un-Mozartian idea that their men really may die, the mock-heroic parody becomes offensive. All that weeping and carrying-on isn’t funny when there are real casualties. In the finale, soldiers intrude on the wedding, smoke fills a corner of the stage, and our heroes return to war, this time for real. Given the bloody-mindedness of the production, they probably don’t survive.

Spare the dramatics

Well, I am sorry, but *Cosi fan tutte* is not a psychology textbook. It may be a sex farce, but it has a number of important things to say about the workings of the human heart. It just says them in a light, entertaining manner. Cox’s stern, minatory approach ruined the performance of debutante Alexandra Deshorties. I’m giving her the benefit of the doubt by suggesting that her dour, grumpy characterization of the hilariously militant Fiordiligi is a construct of the director.

True, Deshorties does not have

the glamorous soprano tone that one raised on the Fiordiligis of Elisabeth Schwarkopf, Margaret Price, Pilar Lorengar and Kiri Te Kanawa has come to expect, but she sings well enough with a solid lower register and much energy. (A trill might improve her musicality.) Still, when it came to that great erotic duet, “Fra gli amplessi,” the heat quotient was turned off for both singers. Tenor Paul Groves (Ferrando) has that neuter Mozart tenor voice and personality that does nothing for me.

It was more obvious in her Dorabella than in her debut role here (as the Kompositist in *Ariadne auf Naxos*) why Pamela Rosenberg esteems Claudia Mahnke. With Mozart in the pit, she could be heard better than over Strauss’ orchestral din. Plus, she’s attractive and has a naturally ebullient stage persona. Her partner, baritone Hanno Mueller-Brachman (American opera debut) does not have a light touch or good Italian diction. I found his Guglielmo too coarse, rather as if Papageno had wandered into Monte Carlo.

Stillwell, von Stade to the rescue

That left the two veteran Americans, Frederica von Stade and Richard Stillwell, to steal the show, which they did handily. The last time I heard Dick and Flicka together, they were a rapturously young Pelleas and Melisande in Santa Fe. Thirty years later, he has



The dour Alexandra Deshorties meets the ebullient Claudia Mahnke.

virtually no tone left but he uses what he’s got as cleverly as Sesto Bruscantini or any Italian farceur who sang well past his prime. And Stillwell looks like Paul Newman in *The Road to Perdition*, a treat for the eyes.

You’ve never heard a Despina like von Stade, making a role debut after 30 years of singing Dorabella. Tart, well-used and still cheerful about it (checking out the bell boys), this Despina is no soubrette, but a hardened, money-conscious French bourgeois. At first I didn’t like the mezzo sound, but she lightened it as the opera went on and eventually was the funniest, most convincing “Doctor” and “Notary” I’ve ever heard. This tour de force

suggests renaming the opera *Despina*.

None the less, it was the vocal ensembles that carried the evening. Even without great, glistering voices, everybody was on his or her toes, singing in chamber music style. This was mainly due to the ministrations of Michael Gielen in the pit. An experienced modern music maestro, he understands that a contemporary orchestra cannot play Mozart properly unless the strings are reined in and the winds allowed to burble, burp and cajole as only Mozart’s can. Best *Cosi* overture I’ve ever heard live. Excellent accompaniments, too, though the uncredited harpsichordist was barely audible. ▼

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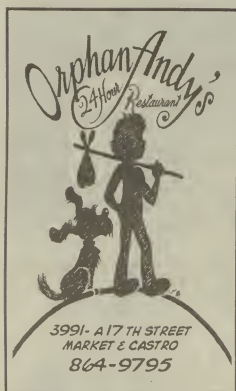
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All new, just the same

Dame Edna redux at the Curran Theatre

by Richard Dodds

A riddle: What is always different but always the same?
Answer: a Dame Edna show.

Even Barry Humphries, the man inside the glittery gowns, recognizes this. "It's exactly the same show," Edna says, "only new."

For those who saw the previous Edna shows that have played San Francisco, *Back with a Vengeance* will hold few surprises. But that doesn't mean there aren't laughs still to be mined from the formula.

What makes the show "new" each night are Edna's reactions to the various theatergoers enlisted for mild humiliation. By now, Humphries has plenty of quips in his arsenal that can be applied to many of the situations, but he still can provide a comic thrill when he nails an ad lib provoked by an unpredictable situation. Humphries even managed to rescue a failed phone bit when there was no one home in two tries to a married couple's friends and relatives.

But there is plenty of predictability in a Dame Edna show. She will make fun of the paupers in the balcony, there will be winking allusions to her children's homosexuality, something will cause her to unleash her gag reflex, her late husband's prostate will be invoked, there will be some localized jokes and un-PC humor, and the show will end with a gladiola toss. The opening-night performance lasted nearly three hours, so a little tightening of well-trod material might be in order.

Back with a Vengeance heads to Broadway after its SF run, and the production is wrapped in faux glamorous curtains and a Manhattan cyclorama meant to suggest the view from Dame Edna's Manhattan penthouse. Also on hand are four dancers who ac-



Reheated yet still delicious: Dame Edna stirs up a kettle of quips.

company Edna's wild gyrations in several musical numbers. Wayne Barker sits at a grand piano on stage and occasionally gets to play it. ▼

Dame Edna: *Back with a Vengeance* will run at the Curran Theatre through Oct. 10. Tickets are \$40 - \$72. Call 512-7770 or go to bestofbroadway-sf.com.

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Too flighty to land

'The Secret in the Wings' at Berkeley Rep

by Richard Dodds

In her program notes for *The Secret in the Wings*, writer-director Mary Zimmerman says she creates her shows on the fly as a way of ensuring spontaneity. It was a technique that worked beautifully in *Metamorphoses*, intriguingly in *The Notebooks of Leonard da Vinci*, and, now, sporadically in *The Secret in the Wings*.

Zimmerman is working with a versatile cast of nine, most of whom have worked with her before. The Chicago-born production, now at Berkeley Rep, weaves together several fairy tales in a style combining once-upon-a-time worlds with contemporary trappings. It starts promisingly with a chipper suburban couple about to leave their daughter with an ogre-like babysitter. It's a recurring variation on the *Beauty and the Beast* theme that pops up as other fairy tales are being begun, interrupted, and finished.

There is more promise in the early part of the show, such as in the story of the princess who would not laugh. Various entertainers try to amuse her, with heading the penalty for those who fail. A stand-up comic and song-and-dance man lose their heads, and so does the poor chap who does a hilarious impression of a mutant fowl named Chickenzilla.

The production grows more



Mary Zimmerman's fairy tales: pretty in flight but hard to hold on to.

lyrical as it progresses, with scenes of actors making like swans, melancholy songs, and images of snow falling in the junk-filled basement that serves as a universal set. It's all pretty enough, but only provides a loose hold on an audience's attention. You can appreciate the theatrical imagina-

tion behind each scene, but it's not always enough. ▼

The Secret in the Wings will run at Berkeley Rep through Oct. 17. Tickets are \$43 - \$55. Call (510) 647-2949 or go to berkeleyrep.org.

MTT ripe for celebration

Low-key gala kicks off SFS season

By Philip Campbell

The opening night of the San Francisco Symphony last week was surprisingly short on excitement, but pleasing in a more intimate display of hospitality. Balloon drops and confetti shoots are now artifacts of a showier past. Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas seemed determined to avoid the usual fuss, ready to dive right into his tenth season on the podium.

It was an occasion ripe for celebration. MTT has accomplished much in the past decade and, on top of his musical triumphs, he is turning 60 in December. A little glamour and glitz could have marked his milestones with a touch more appropriate flair.

The gala is rarely about the music anyway. Seeing and being seen, quaffing champagne, and swapping summer vacation stories are the expected order of the day. A fair amount of happily superficial buzz surrounded the concert, to be sure, but even the lobby decorations were distinctly low-key this year.

There was no discernible theme to the music making either. Three pieces by American composers framed Debussy's *La Mer*, though Gershwin's *An American in Paris* could be said to share a certain Gallic flair.



Looking, sounding great at 60!

Lighthearted but uneven

MTT began with one of his typically charming asides. Alluding to last year's abortive opening, when a fire alarm stopped the concert moments into the finale of Stravinsky's *Firebird*, he decided to start where that event left off. The new program struggled in vain to reach the same level of exhilaration.

Bernard Herrmann's *Concert Suite*, culled from his score for

Hitchcock's *Vertigo* (set in a beautifully mysterious San Francisco), seemed a fine way to start the concert proper. The Wagnerian love music provided an especially lush interlude. The popular flavor of the film's themes compared uneasily, however, to the more sophisticated sonorities of the following *La Mer*. Debussy became the serious focal point of a bill slanted towards more obviously lighthearted fare.

After an extended intermission, Copland's witty *Danzon Cubano* seemed to finish as quickly as it began. At least, it was more in keeping with a festive atmosphere. The closing *American in Paris* might have been a perfect complement had it not been presented in such a straight-faced manner.

MTT is justifiably praised for his idiomatic treatment of Gershwin, but he avoided sentimentality and his usual sexiness in a tightly controlled and ultimately unconvincing rendition. The jaunty rhythms and jazzy high spirits of the score were sidestepped for a more detailed exploration of the composer's remarkable orchestration. It is music that can not fail to delight, but it shouldn't be taken too seriously.

The maestro made a point of saying the night was a celebration of the orchestra and so there was no need for guest soloists or fancy

pyrotechnics. Perhaps that is the mission statement for his tenth season. After all, the real hoopla is usually reserved for the more extroverted Opera opening. Let the Symphony just get on with it.

I still couldn't help wishing for a little more action. The parties after the concert in the rotunda of City Hall and the tent next to Davies did manage to inject some theatricality and MTT made a gracious appearance. The large crowd certainly appeared to be having a grand enough time.

If Tilson Thomas wanted to make an early night of it, who could blame him? The season is inaugurated and, since no one

could deny he is one of the most energetic and dedicated conductors in the Country, he ought to be allowed to pace himself. ▼

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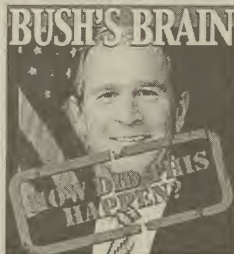
Bush's Brain examined

Doc has good setup, poor payoff

by David Lamble

I approached this film with unreasonable expectations, but in the Darwinian world of Bush jokes, shouldn't a film called *Bush's Brain* be the ultimate punch line? Based on the best-selling book, *Bush's Brain: How Karl Rove Made George W. Bush President* by James C. Moore and Wayne Slater, this film begins with political war stories (we see a grown man cry and hear about a lesbian-bashing whisper campaign) and ends with a real war story. It's the tenuous connection between the setup and the payoff that spoils the fun, but if what you want is a down-and-dirty account of Texas politics, hardball division, this is your film.

My closest encounter with "Bush's brain" occurred in the men's room of a downtown Houston hotel. It was 1978 and I was



Karl Rove backs Bush to the hilt.

covering GOP candidate for governor Bill Clements. In the film, Clements, whose campaign was managed by a very young Karl Rove, is described as ornery, but I found this blustery red faced oilman to be quite affable as he detailed how he was going to win by pulling in the votes of conservative "yellow dog" Democrats, so named because they'd back a yellow

dog before voting Republican. Now it's funny to think that the most accurate prediction I ever got about Texas politics came while standing in front of urinal, but Clements was indeed the first Republican elected Texas governor since Reconstruction. Now maybe Rove was "Clement's brain," but frankly I think this irascible old guy, who already had a building with his name on it on the campus of Southern Methodist University, had something to teach Rove.

Purportedly, one of the first coups in Rove's brand of political chicanery took place during Clements' 1986 bid to regain the governor's mansion, having lost the 1982 election to Democrat Mark White. A bugging device was found in Rove's office in October, 1986. Dave McNeely of Austin American-Statesman notes that the battery on the device indicated that it been planted 15

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Pitch-perfect politics

'Silver City' happily preaches to partisans

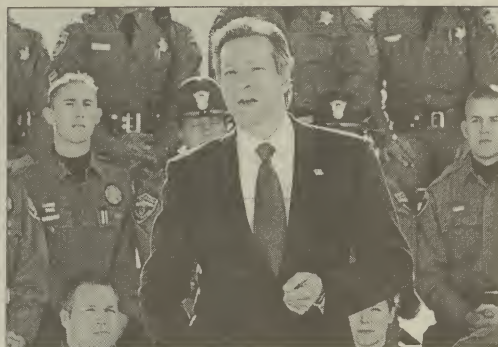
by David Lamble

You don't tell us how to stage the news and we won't tell you how to report it."

In *Silver City* a politician goes bass fishing as a photo op in what is supposed to be a pristine Colorado lake. When Dickie Pilager (Chris Cooper) reels in a very dead human, alarms bells go off. Dickie's campaign manager, Chuck Raven (Richard Dreyfuss), smells a rat and as fast as you can say, "I want him dead in the water," he's sending out the dogs — dogs trained to sniff out dirty tricks. Soon a washed-up reporter turned private eye, Danny O'Brien (Danny Huston), is on the trail of whoever might want to embarrass Dickie, which of course turns out to be half the state. The fact that the corpse is an illegal worker whose body reeks of cyanide gives a deliciously nasty Eco spin to the proceedings.

Silver City is, more or less, John Sayles' version of *Bush's Brain*. Our pleasure is at its peak whenever Dickie trips over his platitudes ("I'll maintain cultural equilibrium," translates into "No handouts for homos."). Chris Cooper is adept at dimming his bulb in such a way as to suggest a man who may be just playing at dumb, or may be a real tool. Dickie's pride at being able to spit out the multi-syllabic "infrastructure" surpasses any need to use the word properly in a sentence. Late in the film a cynical camp follower observes of Dickie's well polished TV image, "He seems a lot more gubernatorial with the sound off."

As Dickie's brain, Richard Dreyfuss makes no pretense at aping Karl Rove's nice guy facade. Dreyfuss has always excelled at rogues whose slippery charm cov-



Chris Cooper plays a politico manipulated by a Rovian Richard Dreyfuss.

ers up the tire tracks they've left on the souls of their foes. Dreyfuss' Raven breaks into a cock-of-the-walk strut that leaves no doubt power is his aphrodisiac. Dreyfuss' defining screen moments, such as putting his best friend in a wheelchair in service of a land grab scheme (*The Apprenticeships of Duddy Kravitz*) or screwing the wife of a rival aluminum siding salesman in *Tin Men* ("I could always smell a man who was not made of tin"), have usually been in support of the late Leo Durocher's eleventh commandment: "Nice guys finish last." The cynical surface, as with that other ultra lefty actor Humphrey Bogart, conceals a heart that bleeds only off screen.

Rushing *Silver City* to theatres in time to make his contribution towards a Bush-free America, John Sayles has gathered a cast of

character actors large enough to have remade *Murder on the Orient Express*, in service of a story that hints at a *Chinatown*-like political skullduggery. Danny Huston combines his director father's toothy grin with his sister's more feline presence to give us a private eye who is not only behind the curve of this story but who realizes a bit late that his whole life is a bad joke (crowned by the visual gag of trying to heat a late night snack in the gap left by his ex-wife's theft of their microwave oven).

Silver City is preaching to the choir, but what's wrong with that? For those of us on the left coast, whose votes have already been discounted, this fable about the Blue Meanies behind the barricades at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue is pitch perfect, a virtually flawless treat. ▼

Bush's Brain

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minutes before it was found. Now while nothing was formally proved, critics attribute Clement's victory in part to the Rove tactic of successfully switching the subject of the political debate to the opponent's disadvantage. Austin based reporter Glenn Smith scornfully observes, "Politics with Karl Rove is hard ball. I consider myself hard ball, but I would never bug my own office and blame it on an opponent."

Now the piece de resistance of the Bush/Rove years in Texas was their 1994 upset of Texas governor Ann Richards. In a hilarious moment in the campaign, there are

film clips of Bush and Richards showing off their prowess with a shotgun. *Bush's Brain* demonstrates Rove's success in curbing "Dubya's" wandering syntax and thought processes. Columnist Molly Ivans asserts, "Bush can't really talk well. He gets himself into trouble. So Karl Rove took him off the road to a camp in East Texas and put the fear of Jesus into him." Ivans adding, "After that he never got off message."

Whispering campaigns

One of the darkest parts of *Bush's Brain* is its thesis that the tightly disciplined Bush/Rove attack against Richards included a whispering campaign, "Is she a lesbian?" As a reporter observes

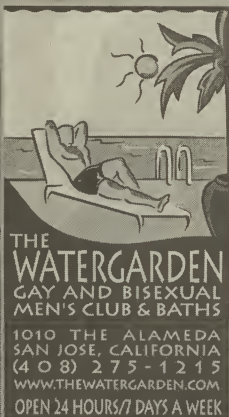
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FILM

'Evergreen' for teens

The makeover fetish hits film

by David Lamble

In director/writer Enid Zentelis' *Evergreen*, a 14-year-old girl impresses a boy with her hook shot. Henri and Chat hook up. Chat (Noah Fleiss) is looking for a girl who's fresh, pretty and who will put out.

Henri (Addie Land) is looking for a whole lot more. Each night she shares a rollout couch bed with her vagabond mother, Kate (Cara Seymour). Kate has found a factory job, an Indian casino worker for a boyfriend and cluttered room in a leaky shack owned by Henri's no nonsense Latvian grandmother. Surrounded by a predatory consumer culture where the only true non-spectator sport is shopping, Henri is shopping for a new family.

Evergreen's driving metaphor is the makeover, that TV-inspired fantasy that one day a whole bunch of fabulous people will just drop by, take a wrecking ball to your old life, and make you fabulous too.

Kate, in between shifts at the toilet-paper factory, clings to the hope that being a freelance representative for First Lady Cosmetics will fuel her Cinderella story in which she gets to be her own fairy godmother. Daughter Henri is more realistic. Lacking any friends at her latest new school, except this blond boy who buys her triple-shot mocha espressos with chocolate sprinkles and promises to take her home to meet his folks, Henri decides to shed her old identity (she never tells Chat that Henri is short for the rather dowdy Henrietta) and like a reality show contestant goes for the big prize: a place on a much more expensive couch next to Chat's mother.

Welcome back,
Mary Hartman

Fans of *Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman* may reflect on the fact that this strange show's most lasting impact may have been as the launching pad for the career of Mary Kay Place. This wonderful character actor, whose gallery of best friends and super moms have contained a hint of Donna Reed seasoned by the sunbelt tang of a Dolly Parton, has developed a facility for appearing in top-notch satirical films where American values are examined, spoofed but not repudiated. As Chat's mom, Susan, Place can genuinely welcome Henri into her well made home without irony or condescension, but with just a hint of a darker motive that will ground the film's seamless shift from screwball comedy to melodrama.

Gary Farmer is superb character actor who is just now being permitted to play a rich variety of working class Americans, who in his case just happen to be Native Americans. Fresh from his dark turn as Fagin-like straw boss in *Twist*, Farmer shows a sunnier side in Jim, a casino card dealer auditioning to be Kate's new old man. Brutally quizzed by grandma about his intentions — "Are you the kind of guy who hits women and children?" — Farmer's Jim holds on to both his dignity and his plausibility as the answer to a larger question that the folks in the leaky shack are afraid to ask.

Evergreen is a gem of a teen story where the heroine lacks a best friend, a kindly mom, a wise mentor, or a roomful of cute clothes and stuffed animals. Like the kids in *Thirteen* and *Mean Creek*, Henri is faced with growing up way too fast and making tough irrevocable choices without

a backup plan. Is having sex with a boy you don't love and soon won't know worse than facing up to feelings of shame about where you come from?

Evergreen's running joke that Henri's family might better off if they could return to Latvia is topped only by a hilarious makeover scene where Henri gets to have both her real mom and her fantasy mom side by side, as if it were possible to ask a saleslady or Oprah to wrap one of them to go.



Screen newcomer Addie Land hooks up with Noah Fleiss in *Evergreen*.

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Bush's Brain

◀ previous page

about Rove's methods, "Karl is in deep on everything. He orchestrated all the moves, not just the ones that didn't smell a little stinky at the end of the day."

Bush's Brain is less convincing while asserting links between the Rove-orchestrated political juggernaut in Texas and the hardball tactics that won the White House. The filmmakers provide some credible evidence to the charge that the mudslinging lesbian innuendo used against Ann Richards had its counterpoint in dirty tricks employed against Bush rival John McCain. John Weaver, McCain's 2000 Campaign Manager, has a beaten-down, almost haunted look about him as he describes the Bush/Rove tactics: "The South Carolina primary was one of the nastiest people had seen since 1960. There were unattributed fliers on the windshields of cars in fundamentalist

church parking lots. A talk show rumor persisted that 'John McCain is having a black love child.'"

Bush's Brain is captivating when its chorus of battle-hardened Texas reporters wittily detail campaign horror stories behind the state's switch from its Solid South Democratic tradition to its new Republican establishment. This rich stew omits the cataclysmic changes that shook Texas politics: single member legislative districts (leading to minority and eventually out-gay lawmakers), liquor by the drink, 18-year-old voting, and ongoing battles over women in politics, school reform, and the shifting demographics that will soon produce a majority minority electorate.

Bush's Brain goes dead when it abruptly climaxes with the death of a young GI in Iraq. It's as if the film had suddenly switched channels and a Karl Rove speech suggesting a "Wag the Dog"-like strategy to take the country to war fails to make sense of this dramatic non sequitur. ▼

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Taking a chance with Jane Monheit

by Gregg Shapiro

Since her CD debut just four short years ago at the age of 23, Jane Monheit has been wowing critics and winning fans with her timeless renditions of American songbook standards. Her latest CD, *Taking a Chance On Love* (Sony Classical), is a lovely collection of tunes featured in MGM musicals. On it, Monheit adds her distinctive perspective to "Honeysuckle Rose," "Love Me or Leave Me," "Embraceable You," "Dancing in the Dark," "Over the Rainbow," and a trio of Cole Porter compositions. I recently spoke with Monheit about the album.

Gregg Shapiro: I was at the July Peggy Lee tribute concert at Ravinia in Chicago, in which you performed. How much of an influence would you say that Peggy Lee had on you?

Jane Monheit: She was actually a very big influence on me, but not in the way that most people would think. Obviously, she was an incredible vocalist, but she influenced me more as a woman in this business. Maybe a lot of Peggy's fans don't necessarily know what a powerful businesswoman she was, and how hard she fought in a man's world for what she was due.

She was also an incredible songwriter, and I think that even to this day people don't give her enough credit for all the incredibly beautiful lyrics that she wrote.

She worked with so many amazing composers, and through all of it, even though she was this incredibly gorgeous, beautiful woman, she never traded on her looks. She always used her mind to bring her higher levels of success.

Your new CD features "In the Still of the Night," "Why Can't You Behave?" and "Do I Love You?" three songs by Cole Porter, who is being feted a lot as the 40th anniversary of his passing approaches.

I really love his music for a lot of reasons. Number one, his melodies are gorgeous. Number two, his lyrics are so incredibly witty. There's also something kind of special, I think, about performing music where the music and the lyrics are written by one person; one conception all the way through. You know there was no discussion about anything. There was no confusion. This is one person's message to the world, and I think there's something really cool about that.

Your version of "Over the Rainbow" is featured in the movie *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*. What does it mean to you to have a song featured in a film?

It's actually very exciting. It's my first movie soundtrack, and it's quite a thrill; especially because that song has traveled with me throughout my entire life. It makes perfect sense to me that it should be "Rainbow." I can't wait to see the film.

The other songs on the CD are



Jane Monheit takes a chance on love with classic MGM musical songs.

from MGM musicals. If you could go back in time and be cast in a vintage MGM musical, which one would you want to do?

Well, all of them. Maybe I would want to be Judy's part in *Meet Me in St. Louis*, or maybe I would want to be Cyd Charisse in *Bandwagon*. Or Ava Gardner in *Show Boat*. The list goes on and on for me there! I'm definitely living in the wrong time.

With the renewed interest in

movie musicals that came in the wake of *Chicago*, are there any new musicals in which you'd like to star in the movie version?

I could never pick and choose. My love for musical theater is so incredibly intense. Maybe some fabulous Sondheim or Anthony Newley. But then there's all that Richard Rodgers. It would be too hard.

You perform a duet on the CD with Michael Buble, who is also part of the younger generation of pop and jazz vocalists.

It's a wonderful thing to be part of this movement of young people who are bringing these songs back to a larger audience. These tunes originated as pop

music, and if we can even get close to making these songs popular again, I think that's a wonderful thing. This is music that entire families can share. No parental warnings on the label. These are great songs. They've lasted this long for a reason. We're also moving into the territory of modern standard. We're starting to look at Stevie Wonder tunes, Carole King tunes, Sting tunes, and Billy Joel and Paul McCartney.

You have already covered Joni Mitchell and Libby Titus. But are you concerned about falling into a retro rut?

People already think of me as being a retro person, but I don't really mind it. It's part of who I am.

Do you ever have the desire to rock out?

Oh, hell, yeah! I used to be in rock bands all the time. I played all the rock clubs in New York, CBGBs and all that. I used to have so much fun. I still listen to a lot of rock 'n' roll and pop music. If we're making a long drive in the car, chances are we're listening to Zeppelin or something like that. There's something to be learned from all music. Most of the musicians I know love everything.

If there's a song on the new CD that could be remixed by a DJ for all of your gay fans in the dance clubs, which one should it be?

Probably "In the Still of the Night." Tunes with a Brazilian feel, I think, tend to lend themselves really well to remixing. One of my favorite albums of all time is *Red Hot & Rio*. I'm addicted to that record, and I think it's such an interesting project. I would instantly go for the Brazilian music in that sort of realm. ▼

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Gwyneth Paltrow

◀ Arts cover

tarian, moved to London, took up residence with husband Chris Martin of Coldplay in a home they bought from Kate Winslet, remained in labor for nearly three days, sans epidural, until the last eight hours — which is when she became a mother for the first time, and named her daughter Apple.

Fruit loops

The question everyone asked at the time, and is still asking, is, Why Apple? "It sounded so sweet, and it conjured such a lovely picture for me: you know, apples are so sweet, and they're wholesome, and it's Biblical, and I just thought it sounded so lovely and clean! I just thought, 'Perfect!'"

"Then she was born, and it became an international outrage," Paltrow laughed, "which I found surprising, because there are people named Lily, Rose, Ivy or June, or lots of pretty nouns!" OK, then!

The filming of *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*, according to Paltrow, was a fast-paced endeavor. She plays a Lois Lane-type character in the \$70 million film, which takes place in the late 1930s. "We raced through the movie," she said. "In a typical movie, you do six or seven scenes a day, if that. But because everything in this movie was done before we arrived, except for the acting, we did more than 40 scenes each day. In a big movie, you shoot for a few months. We were done with this movie in less than

a month."

But "the movie took more than six years to put together before we arrived. It's full of beautiful scenery. The filming was actually done on a blue screen. The soaring skyscrapers and lush greenery are all computer-generated. The end result was a wholly new experience.

"When you film a movie on location, you always wonder how it will look on the big screen, with all the lighting. I am so used to saying to myself, 'I can't wait to see how they lit that.' With this, it was like seeing a whole film where you had no idea.

"The most amazing thing about this film is the film before the film." She alluded to the film's director, Kerry Conran, who, nearly a decade ago, began work on the film, ironically, with his Apple computer. "Over the course of more than a year, he put together a six-minute mock-up of what he envisioned this movie to be in its complete form." Paltrow was brought into the project at the behest of Jude Law, her costar in the homoerotic *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, who was cast first.

Sky Captain can best be described as a cross between *Indiana Jones*, *Superman*, *Star Wars*, *Metropolis* and, yes, *Tomb Raider*.

With its sepia tones, its inside jokes (director Conran pays homage to George Lucas by using 1138 as the number on a door, *The Wizard of Oz* plays Radio City Music Hall in 1939) and its all-star cast, *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow* is sure to open eyes and raise eyebrows. *Opens Friday.* ▼

MUSIC

Back-to-back Bach

Christophe Rousset interprets 'English Suites'

by Tim Pfaff

You don't need all the fingers on one hand to count the early-music instrumental virtuosos who went on to become ensemble leaders and conductors yet continued doing important solo work on their "original instruments" (you should pardon the new context for this tired term). Stardom can take its toll. Although Christophe Rousset, who rose to the top rank of the world's harpsichordists when he won the Bruges Harpsichord Festival in 1983, at the age of 22, has gone on to lead his own ensemble, the superb Les Talens Lyriques, since 1991 — doing groundbreaking work in a wide range of music we would be immeasurably

poorer without — he has never abandoned his focus on the music for solo harpsichord.

His new recording of Bach's *English Suites* (Ambrosie) makes it clear that his understanding of the keyboard music of the Baroque's greatest composer only deepens over time. There have been complaints about the sound of Ambrosie's CD, which is highly reverberant yet oddly dry. Rather than blame the engineers, as some wisecracks on the Internet have, I prefer to think of it as the natural result of the CD's having been recorded at the Museum of Art and History in Neuchâtel, home of the remarkable instrument Rousset plays: a twice-restored 1632 Johannes Ruckers double-manual instrument of striking sonic character and pungent



personality.

The sound could be deemed a problem only if the acoustics obscured the clarity of either Bach's counterpoint or Rousset's playing. Both are in the safest of hands and seem, if anything, to thrive rather than wither in this singular sound world. Take a moment to adjust to the acoustics, and the rewards come pouring in.

Chief among them, as always, is the unmatched vitality of the gay musician's playing. It's particularly evident in the fast movements, which race by at implausible speeds yet with every note clearly audible — and articulated with the same degree of nuance and flexibility you hear in the slower, more sinuous movements.

Hapsichord thrills

The double Bourée near the end of the Second Suite, BWV 807 (the first in the set, which places the evens before the odds), is the first to make your hair stand on end. Yet, as it whistles by, Rousset typically making it sound easy in

stead of hard, you soon notice the same flexibility of rhythm and canny characterization of the musical line heard throughout his interpretation.

Call it exhibitionism if you wish, but this music — which took the standard dance forms and rhythms to places they'd never thought of going before Bach got his nimble hands and mind on them — asks nothing less, and gets it in a refreshingly unidiosyncratic way from Rousset. (Honest musicians — and listeners — will tell you that they're in it for the excitement anyway. Rousset adds to that taste, refinement, and a seemingly unstoppable torrent of fresh, compelling ideas.)

That said, the slower, denser, weirder *Sarabandes*, with their torturous musical lines, sprung rhythms, and strained harmonies transfixed me most. After the first, also in the *A-minor Second Suite* — the single most familiar piece in the Suites, but as played by Rousset, plumbing new depths of expression — I found myself waiting impatiently for them, the way most listeners do for the exuberant *Gigues* (yes, "jigs") that end each of the suites.

Given that there is no solid evidence that Bach assembled these suites as a set, or that there is anything essentially English about them, Rousset has shown additional cleverness in playing them in the order he does. The first CD builds to the *Sixth Suite*, which

Rousset, in his own notes, calls "the most ambitious" of them. (Its *Gigue* sizzles.)

The second disc ends with the *Fifth*, which winds its way from a highly syncopated *Prelude* to a fugal *Gigue* that is, he aptly observes, "chromatic almost to the point of leaving the tonality." Except for its haunting *Sarabande*, which is also restless and unsettling, it seems constantly to be pushing the formal envelope. It's all play for Rousset.

Enter Egarr

Richard Egarr, better known to the public as a regular colleague of violinist Andrew Manze, uses his recent *Per cembalo solo...* Bach CD (Harmonia Mundi) to prove that he's a front-rank musician in his own right. Playing a splendid 1991 Joel Katzmann copy of a 1638 Ruckers harpsichord in a far more normal acoustic, Egarr performs a mixed bag of works, the most familiar of which are the *Italian Concerto*, BWV 971, and the *Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue in D Minor*, BWV 903. Most show the magic Bach worked on the music of his Italian predecessors and contemporaries. Egarr works some magic of his own, with playing of consistent lucidity, daring, and polish. Like Rousset's, his playing is at the cutting edge of Bach performance, which makes you sit right up.

It's brilliant playing, but Rousset's is pure genius. ▼

The phenomenal Rokia Traoré

by Jason Victor Serinus

The voice is like no other. At times soft and low, with a microphone-enhanced, breathy intimacy that suggests she's singing just to you, other times soaring and animated, 29-year-old Rokia Traoré's extraordinarily flexible instrument speaks of her life as an expatriate from West Africa's Mali. Beyond the clarity of her lyrics, sung in her native language Bamanan with an urgency that suggests she is singing for her life, there lies an authenticity of expression that puts her in the same class as Billy Holiday or Bessie Smith.

With her October 16 debut in Carnegie Hall attracting nationwide attention, Traoré appears with SF Jazz at San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts Theatre on October 23.

The tour promotes the recent US release of Traoré's third album, *Bowmboi* (Nonesuch). Music and lyrics by Traoré is given modern arrangements created in collaboration with musicians playing authentic instruments. Two tracks are brilliantly supported by SF's genre-busting Kronos Quartet.

Traoré's lyrics urge women to transcend traditional gender roles. One song, "Kote Don," pointedly states: "I dislike what is rigid, set/What 'is' without knowing why."

Asked about her choice of instrumentation and the absence of commercial "pop" arrangements that compromise much of today's "world music" releases, Traoré explains: "World music is a concept created by Europeans and the West to build a market. Because it is not possible for most African artists to make a living in their own countries, they play for Europeans and Americans. Even if their career started by playing traditional music, the opportunity to make a living by playing 'world music' unconsciously transforms their music into something that is more for the audience than for Africa."

The daughter of a now-retired diplomat, Traoré was only four years old when she left Mali to begin traveling with her family.



Ms. Traoré transcends gender.

She learned to speak French at almost the same time she was learning Bamanan.

Return to roots

Composing her first lyrics when she was 14, Traoré found solace in putting into words what she thought about people and what was happening around her. She eventually left her studies in Belgium to return to Mali and study singing with a friend of her father's. She was driven by the need to express herself and find her roots.

"I was alone in my mind because I was too much about France to be totally as people are in my original culture, and not enough from France to be totally accepted."

Creating original music became the means to address her isolation.

"When I perform, it is as though my audience becomes my friends. There's a connection that makes me feel like I'm a part of them. I come from somewhere."

Communication is also essential to slowing the spread of AIDS in Mali. According to Traoré, many in Mali feel shame about the disease.

"When someone is sick from AIDS, the doctor sometimes doesn't tell the person or the family. The person doesn't know and can give it to someone else. People feel shame and never really talk about it. It is a very sad situation." ▼

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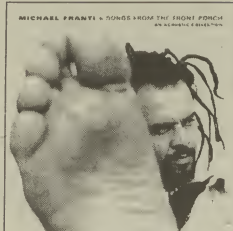
Lone rangers

Solo CDs from the banded

by Gregg Shapiro

In the last few months, I have received solo CDs by artists long associated with bands. The desire and compulsion to step out on one's own is easy to understand, and the work created in that setting is often rewarding for both performer and listener.

The domestic release of *Songs From The Front Porch: An Acoustic Collection* (Boo Boo Wax/Music) by Spearhead frontman Michael Franti introduces the listener to another, more bare-bones side of the man best known for his work with hip-hop outfits Disposable Heroes of Hiphoprisy and Spearhead. Reminiscent of both Gil Scott-Heron and Ben Harper, Franti's combination of politics and spirituality ("Love'll Set Me Free," "Oh My God") makes this front-porch music as powerful



MICHAEL FRANTI: SONGS FROM THE FRONT PORCH
AN ACOUSTIC COLLECTION

and refreshing as a tall glass of lemonade on a hot summer day.

Lucia Cifarelli of Drill and KMEDM fame drops her surname and steps out on her own on *From the Land of Volcanos* (The Control Group). Slicker and prettier than one might expect, Lucia sounds like Madonna. While that's sure to disappoint hardcore industrial-music maniacs, it does present Lucia with the potential to reach an entirely dif-

ferent audience. Traces of the Lucia of old can be found on "Ordinary Girl" and "Monkey Puzzle Tree."

On their new respective new albums *Not So Much To Be Loved As To Love* (Sanctuary/Vapor) and *Getting' In Over My Head* (Brimel/Rhino), eternal kids Jonathan Richman and Brian Wilson take differing approaches to maturity. Richman exhibits both artistic and personal growth throughout his wonderful CD. From the sentiments of the title track to the musical voyages in Italian and French, to the political statement of "Abu Jamal," Richman's perspective remains uniquely his own. After taking on Pablo Picasso 30 years ago, Richman offers up a new art-history lesson on "Vincent Van Gogh," and reflects on the impact that "Salvador Dali" had on his life, making the songs informative and entertaining.

Wilson may be looking at the world through "Rainbow Eyes" on his new disc, but he remains a straight man stuck in his unresolved childhood. As always, the sonic quality of Wilson's work is unparalleled, and the presence of



legendary guest musicians such as Elton John, Paul McCartney, and Eric Clapton is worth noting. Unfortunately, the simplicity of the lyrics makes this a case of style over substance, and therefore a disappointment.

Fancey dances

Two members of The New Pornographers, whose 2003 album *Electric Version* was one of the best releases of the year, have stepped out on their own. *Fancey* (March/What Are Records?) by New Pornographers guitarist and keyboard player Todd Fancey, and *The Slow Wonder* (Matador) by New Pornographers frontman A.C. Newman give both guys a chance to work some different

muscles. Fancey's disc is sweet, sunny and refreshing. Newman's album is a bit edgier, and every bit as enjoyable.

In addition to releasing new solo discs, Tanya Donnelly, Dan Zanes and Dave Derby all have connections to influential Boston bands. Donnelly started as a member of Throwing Muses, and later formed The Breeders and Belly. Zanes was a founding member of the roots-rocking Del Fuegos, and Derby led alternative rock band The Dambuilders. Donnelly's gorgeous *Whiskey Tango Ghosts* (4AD) is distinguished by her at turns stunning and subtle vocals. An unexpected beauty also permeates Derby's *Even Further Behind* (Badman), and it can be found on the title track, which echoes Kiss' "Beth." Since 2000, Zanes and some of his musical friends have been recording albums for kids and their families. *Parades and Panoramas* (Festival Five) shifts Zanes' focus to the work of the late American poet Carl Sandburg and his 1927 book *The American Songbag*, in which the writer assembled a multitude of folk songs, spirituals and others. ▼



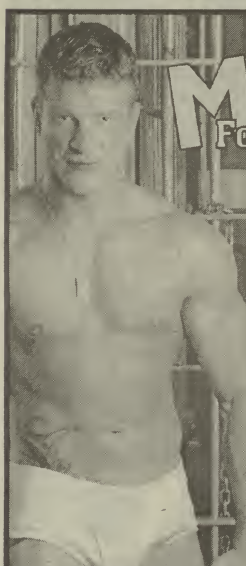
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Live and well

Out of the studios and onto CD

by Gregg Shapiro

Full disclosure: my basic feeling about live albums is, "I wasn't there, so I don't care." Live recordings of shows I attended are a little more interesting.

Recorded at the Lillian Fontaine Garden Theater in Saratoga, California, Joan Armatrading's *Live: All the Way from America* (SLG) opens promisingly, with a heartfelt live reading of "Down to Zero," one of her most beloved songs. The piano/vocal version of "All the Way" nails the emotional impact of the track, and "Prove Yourself" and "Physical Pain," both from Armatrading's most recent studio effort,

also translate nicely live. But mostly, the performances have a monotony that dulls their power. Even longtime favorites such as "The Weakness in Me," "Love and Affection," and "Rosie" sound restrained. "Me Myself I" revives the energy, and the crowd-pleasing encore of "Willow" turns into the usual sing-along love-fest. The companion DVD features several more songs and bonus tracks.

Tori Amos' double-disc *Welcome to Sunny Florida* (Epic) is a more visual experience. The live portion, recorded on the final day of her *Scarlet's Walk* tour, is a concert DVD featuring Amos' trademark piano-driven numbers such as "Father Lucifer" and "Precious Things," interspersed with backstage and interview footage. The

second disc includes six new studio tracks, subtitled *Scarlet's Hidden Treasures*.

The expanded double-disc reissue of the classic live Talking Heads set *The Name of This Band Is Talking Heads* (Sire/WB/Rhino) serves a different purpose. Even at the time of its initial vinyl release more than 20 years ago, *TN0T-BITH* was archival, featuring live recordings dating as far back as 1977. With the addition of previously unreleased bonus material including "The Book I Read," "The Big Country" and "Born Under Punches (The Heat Goes On)," the name of this live album is essential.

Recorded in April 2004 at the Lincoln Center Theater, Barbara

next page ►

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Joan Crawford's 'Queen Bee' on DVD

The movie was the first of three Crawford would make with Columbia Studios, and was released 30 years after her silent-screen debut. At this point, the press referred to her as an "indestructible" and "durable" star. The French title for this film was *Femme Diabolique*, and it's a wonderful guilty pleasure. ▼




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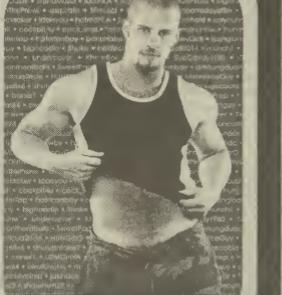
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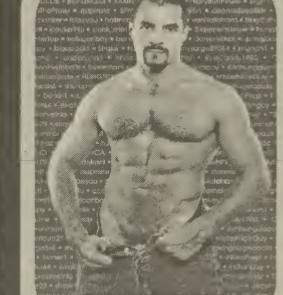
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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

'Ich bin ein Girlie Man'

If John F. Kennedy could declare himself a Berliner, I can proclaim myself a Girlie Man. Kennedy put himself on the side of the forces of capitalism opposed to the advance of communism. I put myself on the side of drag queens and kings, femme boys, sissies, butch girls, trannies of all sorts, Mister Rogers (RIP), and everyone else opposed to the threat of Pumped Up Butch Straight Men Who Aim to Rule the World.

Let's be clear here in the week leading up to our City's beloved Folsom Street Fair: It's not our well-muscled, curvaceous gay leather guys who are giving males up and down California and all across the U.S. a bad name. It's not even the Pumped Up Yet Sensitive Straight Men, who somehow mingle amicably with queers. It's the Hopelessly Blinkered Butch Straight Dudes who are giving us a black eye. They're the steroid freaks piling up on the Arnold bandwagon, practicing politics not by consensus, but by brute force and overwhelming body odor. They don't care about the common good, just about being part of the howling pack of male marauders aspiring to Hummer heaven.

It pleases me to think of men kissing. It pleases me to think of men sucking and fucking. It pleases me to examine a man's cock. I can bear to look at it directly, and think about it openly. I'm free that way. No fear. I can look at a woman's vagina without cringing, too. Sexual anatomy doesn't scare me. Those big burly androids who follow Arnold? They're cowardly. Can't face manhood. Can't look at another man naked and not go weak in the knees. They love to watch dykes getting it on, "girls gone wild" fashion. But would they ever vote to let those dykes marry? Heavens no, that would make women beyond their control!

I love men who are free, who have escaped the bondage of group-think, who listen deeply to their inner truth, acknowledge everything about themselves that they can discover, and take responsibility for themselves and their loved ones rather than blaming all the world's ills on others and raising bogey men to attack because they are so hung up on the question of masculinity. I wish TV cameras would descend en masse on the Folsom Street Fair to show the true spirit of the fest and what real men can be. See that they can be butch as hell, and still kiss one another. Be butch as hell, and still acknowledge each other's sexiness. Be butch as hell, and still make love, not war.

I don't mind being called a Girlie Man. It's a compliment. It's an old cruising adage that often the butchest of leather men prove to be nelly in bed. The one you'd expect to be tops turn out to be bottoms, and vice versa. You never really know until you get a finger up their ass. The problem with the Blinkered crowd is they'd never let their own finger up their ass, much less their girlfriend's, and god forbid another man's (except a licensed proctologist's, properly sheathed, in sterile conditions, and ignoring that it feels divine). Please, guys, stop hating and start getting your wives to strap on dildos and give you a good ass pounding. Wouldn't that feel fine?

Fri

Lesbian/Gay Chorus of SF @ The Center

Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco presents *Somewhere Over the Top: An Adult Cabaret*. Cross the line of good taste on Sept. 17 & 18 with the LGCSF's adult cabaret, under the direction of Stephanie Lynne Smith. Guest performance artist Jamie Glowacki will grace the stage both Fri. and Sat. night with her dance, circus arts, and musical theater. \$20 for table seating, \$15 general admission; \$10 for GALA Chorus affiliates. Advance purchase recommended. Two shows: Sept. 17 & 18 at 8pm. Rainbow Room, SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix: available from any LGCSF member or: 415-861-7067; www.lgcsf.org

SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band @ Bethany United Methodist Church

The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band presents *A September Sampler*, a free concert conducted by Jadine Louie, showcasing world music representing many cultures. Featuring the *Finale from Symphony #1* by Vasily Kalinnikov; the tone poem *Mannin Veen* ("Dear Isle of Man") by English Composer Haydn Wood; the tone poem *Finlandia* by Jean Sibelius, written in 1899 for a series of tableaux illustrating episodes in Finland's past; *Ritmo Jondo*, a suite of three Spanish Flamenco dances by Carlos Surinach; Robert W. Smith's *Africa: Ceremony, Song, and Ritual*, which weaves together a ceremonial fire chant, an ancient folk song from Ghana, and a chant to the God of Thunder; Frenchman Jacques Press' *Wedding Dance*, taken from Press' symphonic suite *Hasseneh*, creating the jovial atmosphere of a Hebrew wedding celebration; and Aaron Copland's *Buckaroo Holiday*, the opening of the ballet *Rodeo*, written in 1942 at the behest of choreographer Agnes de Mille. Admission Free! 8:15 pm. 1268 Sanchez St. (at Clipper St.). Info: 415-255-1355; www.sflgfb.org

CLUE: the Play @ The Dark Room

Impossible Productions presents *CLUE: the Play*, the return of the farce whodunit-cocktail-party-turned-multiple-homicide. It's the stage adaptation of the cult classic film adaptation of the board game, featuring six suspicious characters, six deadly weapons, nine sinister rooms, and one killer evening. Every night the audience votes on multiple surprise endings! Directed by Cameron Eng & Jim Fourniades; produced by Erin O'Hanesson & Cameron Eng. *CLUE* stars Jack Daniel, Maura Sipila, John Smith, Nancy Bower, Dave McKew, Seanetta, Jacinta Tobin, Peter Doty, David Robson, Micah Pilkington and Colin Benoit. \$15 at door; \$13 online (www.atevea.com/go/improad). Shows Fridays and Saturdays, 8pm, Sept. 17, 18, 24 & 25. The Dark Room, 2263 Mission St. (btwn 18th & 19th). Tix/Info: 415-401-7987; www.darkroomsf.com; www.cluetheplay.4t.com

Monumental: David Brower's Fight for Wild America @ Roxie Cinema

Opening night: *Monumental: David Brower's Fight for Wild America*. The man who famously jousted with developers and politicians in order to defend the Earth's wild places comes to the big screen in Director/Producer Kelly Duane's new film *Monumental*. A World War II mountaineering soldier and enigmatic personality, David Brower was a larger-than-life figure who in California made many first ascents in Yosemite and led the Sierra Club to national prominence through

many conservation battles. Film plays nightly 6:15, 8, & 9:45pm thru Sept. 23. Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St. (at Valencia). Info: 415-863-1087; www.roxie.com

Divine @ Cherry Bar
Socialize and dance at *Divine*, a Women's Club that welcomes men, at Cherry Bar. A Benefit for EQCA & NCLR, plus Chris Carnes' Special Birthday Celebration. Scheduled appearance by Mayor Gavin Newsom. Elizabeth Falkner of Citizen Cake will showcase her Chocolate Mystery Birthday Box. Happy Birthday Medley performed live by Sharon McNight and Dana Adkins. Emceed by Donna Sacket. Hosted by: Chris Carnes (Carnes Productions), Mariah Hanson (Cherry Bar), Kate Kendall (NCLR), Molly McKay (EQCA), Alison Terry-Evans (HiiGirlz.com), Mindy Bokser (BACW), Heather Findlay (Girlfriends Magazine), and Absolut Vodka Plus. Geoff Kors, ED of EQCA, and Kate Kendall, ED of NCLR, will give updates on our fight to marry. Wine tasting, martinis, music & dancing. Enjoy premium wine flights featuring Beringer Winery. Full bar available. Munch on fruits and cheeses. Door Prizes and silent auction. Attire: dressy. \$10 cover (wine flights are an additional cost). 8pm-12am. Cherry Bar, 917 Folsom St. Info: 415-974-5906; www.thecherrybar.com

Betty Buckley @ Empire Plush Room
Celebrated Broadway diva Betty Buckley (*Cats*, *Triumph of Love*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Carrie*, *Pippin*, *1776*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Promises, Promises*, and television actor ("Eight is Enough") brings her cabaret show to the intimate Empire Plush Room for a three week engagement. \$55-\$60; plus two drink minimum. 8pm Tue, Wed, Thu; 8 & 11pm Fri. & Sat.; 3pm Sun. Thu Sept. 26. York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Tix/Info: 415-885-2800; www.empireplushroom.com

Bar! @ The Coast Playhouse, West Hollywood

Opening night: *what does it mean?* The musical that premieres today. Music by David Troy. Lyrics by Robert Schrock and Gavin Geoffrey Dillard, with Jonathan Heath, Danny Lukic, and Mark Winker. Directed/Choreographed by Kay Cole. Somewhere in the night dogs are barking! How can you resist? A world full of fleas, sirens, loneliness, garbage, pheromones, loyalty, fire hydrants, intergalactic travel. Sung from the dogs' point of view, *Bar!* is a tall waggin', cats hatin', leg liftin', flea scratchin', face lickin' show. \$35. 8pm Thu-Fri; 2pm & 7pm Sun. Open run. The Coast Playhouse, 8325 Santa Monica Blvd., WeHo. Tix/Info: www.tix.com; www.bark-theatrical.com

Eagle Tavern 7th Anniversary Party
The Eagle Tavern's 7th Anniversary Party featuring grub, grog, pins, and music with The Cinnamon Girls. The Eagle Tavern, 398 12th St. (at Harrison). Info: www.sfeagle.com

City of Ladies

@ The Powerhouse
The Powerhouse presents "City of Ladies," hosted by Absolute Empress XXXV, Susie Wong, a benefit and promotion for the 40th Anniversary of the Imperial Court of SF. Beer bust, entertainment, raffle. 9pm-midnight. 1347 Folsom St. Info: 415-552-8689.

MAX TGIF

@ The Center
Join the Men of MAX for TGIF CockTails. MAX (Men's Association Exchange) is a membership-supported fraternal organization whose mission is to provide a fun, open, diverse and welcoming community for gay men via social and philanthropic events. \$10 for MAX members, \$15 for guests (includes all of your drinks). 6-9pm. 4th Floor, SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St.

(at Octavia). Info: www.maxonline.org

Hot & Healthy Summer Sex @ AHP Services Center

AHP Services Center presents "Hot & Healthy Summer Sex Workshop Series: Keeping A Healthy Sexuality Intact." Achieving a healthy sexuality is one thing; maintaining it is another. Explore the challenges that can arise in sustaining a healthy sexuality, including difficult feelings and changes in our ideas of what defines 'healthy sexuality'. Free. 6:30-9:30pm. AHP Services Center, 1930 Market St. Space limited. Register at 415-476-6448, ext. 1. Info: www.ucsf-ahp.org

Sat

Queer Latino Shorts @ USF Presentation Theater

Guapos, *Guapas y Besos Peligrosos* ("Handsome Men, Beautiful Women and Dangerous Kisses"), an evening of Queer Latino Short Films. Part of Cine Acción's 12th Festival Cine Latino. Co-presented with QueLac. Includes world premieres by seven local filmmakers who responded to curator Dolissa Medina's challenge to make a film in two months around the theme of "Besos Peligrosos". Includes new work by Valentin Aguirre, Veronica Majano, Elizabeth Chavez, Mary Guzman, Alyssa Contreras, and Linette Peralta Haynes and Kimberly Alvaranga. \$5-\$8. 9pm. USF Presentation Theater, 2350 Turk Blvd.

Barbara Nitke @ Mark I. Chester Studio

Opening party: Mark I. Chester and Dr. Carol Queiro's nonprofit Center for Sex and Culture present a joint exhibition of Barbara Nitke's & b&w loving SM photographs and the color digital photographs of bondage ecstasy and sculpture by photographer Michael Blue and bondage rigger Midori. The artists will attend and Nitke's new hard-cover book *Kiss of Fire: A Romantic View of Sadomasochism* will be available (\$40). Bondage performance by Fetish Diva Midori plus other entertainment. \$5-\$10+ sliding donation (NOTAFLOF). 7pm-midnight. 1229 Folsom St. Info: mch-ester.best.vwh.net; www.barbaranitke.com; www.beauty-bound.com

Mining the Leather Archive

@ Main Library
The James C. Hornel Gay & Lesbian Center of the SF Public Library and the Leather Archives & Museum of Chicago present: *Mining the Archives: A Story of the San Francisco Leather Communities*. "An exhibition of historic materials on SF's leather communities from the Leather Museum's collection, including archival material on community activism, clubs and organizations, artists and contests. Gay men's, women's and pansexual communities also represented. Free. Show runs thru Sept. 30. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. (at Grove). Info: 415-557-4277; www.sfpd.org

Pageant @ NCTC

Opening night: The New Conservatory Theatre Center's *Pride Season Ten: We Are Family* presents the musical comedy *Pageant*, with music by Albert Evans, and book and lyrics by Bill Russell and Frank Kelly. Conceived by Robert Longbottom. Dyan McBride, Director & Choreographer; Michael O'Dell, Music Director. Starring Patrick Michael Dukeman (Miss Belle Bile), Justin Weatherly (Miss Deep South), Trauma Flintstone (Miss Texas), Patrick O. Sanchez (Miss Industrial Northeast), Daniel Howard (Miss West Coast), Thomas Thieriot (Miss Great Plains), and Alvy Holloway (Frankie Cavalier). This rowdy farce pits six wacky



No Problem, part of "Queer Latino Shorts" at USF's Presentation Theater. See Saturday.

beauty queens against each other in the Glamoresse Cosmetics annual extravaganza. Judges picked from the audience determine a different winner at every performance. Presided over by host Frankie Cavalier, who gives Wayne Newton a run for his money. \$20 previews (Sept. 10-17) & Wed.; \$26 Thu. & Sun; \$28 Fri; \$32 Sat.; \$40 opening night. 8pm (2pm Sun). NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix/Info: 415-861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

GAWK @ Magnet

Join Gay Artists & Writers Collective (GAWK) for a performance and artistic get together at Magnet. Comics, musicians, monologues abound. All performers welcome. On the calendar for this month's performance are country singer Tex Campbell, gay writer/activist Alex McDonald, and a screening of the 1991 video *Flesh Pounds*. Free! 7pm. Info: Jon Sugar at 415-731-2424; or Magnet at 415-581-1600; www.magnet.sf.org

Auditions @ Beach Blanket Babylon

Steve Silver's *Beach Blanket Babylon* Producer Jo Schuman Silver and Director Kenny Mazlow seek cast replacements. All auditioners should prepare at least one up-tempo number (preferably rock or pop) and a ballad. Bring music in your own key, current résumé and photo. Dance shoes are optional. Minorities encouraged to audition. Competitive salary and full medical benefits, plus paid vacations and sick leave. 12 noon. Club Fugazi, 678 Beach Blanket Babylon Blvd. (formerly Green St., btwn Columbus & Powell). Info: auditions@beachblanketbabylon.com; fax 415-421-0518 (include your call-back number).

SF Hiking Club

@ Montara Mountain
Join other outdoors lovers for a hike up Montara Mountain in Pacifica for terrific views of the coastline. It's a moderately strenuous 10-mile hike with a 1,800-ft. elevation gain. Meet 8:45am under the Large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: 415-487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

MAX Hike

@ Sunol Loop
Join the Men of MAX and friends for hiking in the Sunol Regional Wilderness, a distance of 4.75 miles and approx. time of 3.5 hours. This trail is rated 3/5 in difficulty and 8/10 for beauty. Info/registration: Paul Mugnier at 415-431-2422; www.maxonline.org

Raise the Flags!

@ 67 Belcher St.
Donna Sacket and James Holloway host *Raise the Flags!*, a festive fundraiser celebrating unity. Proceeds will place rainbow flags on the SF LGBT Community Center. Special guest entertainer Lady Tia. Honorary co-hosts: Assemblyman Mark Leno, Supervisors Tom Ammanno and Baven Dufty, and Sandra "Mama" Reinhardt. Wear colorful attire. \$50

donation. 7-11pm. 67 Belcher St. (btwn 14th & Duboce). Reservations: Naomi at 415-865-5538.

The Whoa Nellies

Wilde Oscar's presents *The Whoa Nellie's* "Good Time Saturday Night!" featuring the remarkable vocal talents of Leigh Crow (the artist formerly known as Elvis Herselvis!) and local chanteuse Connie Champagne. Bring your incense and peppermints and sing along to this very queer tribute to the 1960's British Invasion bands and California Dreamers. Free Admission. Show dates are 9/18 & 9/25 from 8-10pm. 1900 Folsom St. (at 15th). Info: 415-621-7145

Sun

AIRspace @ Jon Sims Center for the Arts

AIRspace presents Ray (Coco López) Ferrer and Emily G. Park. Drag performance artist Ferrer brings Coco López to the JSC stage as a Cuban revolutionary diva, Fidel Castro's exiled ex-lover and former co-leader. Modern dance, musical theater, circus and performance artist Park will direct an exploration of multiple genres. In the lobby: *Volatiles Bodies*, a visual arts exhibit by emerging artists Jodie Cavinder and Lauren Scime. \$10-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 6pm. 1519 Mission St. (btwn S. Van Ness & 11th, next to the Loading Dock). Tix/Info: 415-554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

Way Cool

@ Roxie Cinema
Roxie Cinema presents *Way Cool: RNC As Not Seen On TV*. A Video Diary By Marc Huestis (Sex Is). Inspired by Haskell Wexler's 1969 title *Medium Cool*, *Way Cool* captures the compelling sights and sounds of the streets of New York during the Republican National Convention. \$7. Showtime 12 noon. Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St. Info: 415 863-0611.

Bar-be-que By the Bay @ Log Cabin, Presidio

Log-Martin Women's Health Services' 4th Annual Bar-be-que by the Bay. The day will feature music, dance, a fabulous silent auction. If you have been to the Bar-be-que by the Bay in the past, you already know what a great event this is. If you are a new friend or supporter of the Log-Martin Clinic, this is a celebration you won't want to miss! \$75 & up. 2-6pm. The Log Cabin in the Presidio (Building 1299). Info: Melinda Capiraso, 415-821-9693; www.log-martin.org

Midlife Gay Men

@ MHR Garden
Are you aging well? Is age something that you do, or is it something that is done to you? Midlife Gay Men, in collaboration with

STOP AIDS Project's "In Our Prime," is sponsoring a Garden Party today from 1-3pm in the beautiful Most Holy Redeemer Garden (Ellard Hall in case of inclement weather) for all midlifers and their admirers. Discuss change at midlife. Complimentary refreshments. Free (donations appreciated). 100 Diamond St. (at 18th). RSVP: toll free at 1-866-668-4634; email mgm-mhr@onebox.com.

Barbara Nitke/ Society of Janus @ The Citadel

SM photographer Barbara Nitke will do a slide-show talk for the Society of Janus, SF's oldest pan-sexual educational and social SM group. She'll discuss her sexual and SM photographs and the NCSF (National Coalition for Sexual Freedom) lawsuit challenging John Ashcroft and the CDA (Communications Decency Act). Open to anyone 18+ with a sincere, positive interest in BDSM. \$15 gen'l public; \$5 Janus members & reciprocal organizations. Doors open 1pm. SF Citadel, 245 8th St. Info: www.soj.org; www.ncsfreedom.org; www.wire-niusreport.net

Divas Sunday @ The Café

Tita Aida hosts Divas Sunday, a drag/transgender revue featuring fabulous showgirls with a flair for lipsync. Featuring The Rice Girls, Cassandra, Tita Bloomingdale and special guest Trivia (Miss GAPA 2004). DJ Matthew Baker provides tunes. No cover. Shows at 10:15 & 11:30pm. The Café, Market & Castro. Info: 415-292-3420, ext. 348.

Mon

Ace In The Hole @ The EDGE

Steer into The EDGE bar for "Ace In The Hole," the one-year anniversary celebration of the monthly benefit "Spurs-N-Fur." MC Deana Dawn hosts, with entertainment by Eric Hanson, Doug Graff, Miss Trout, Cockatiella, Mark Paladini, Ed Morgan and live feed by Jazzy Jasmine Stone of the Cajun Babes. Plus: the one-night-only return of Angelica Houston-Texas — a transformed bearded cowboy — performing "Dueling Dolls" with busty Deana Dawn. \$8 beer/soda bust and raffle to benefit Under One Roof. 8-11pm. The EDGE, 4149 18th St. Info: 415-863-4027.

Robert Davolt @ Rock Hard

Meet Painfully Obvious (Daedalus Publishing) author Robert Davolt. His book is a collection of 40 essays stripping away some of the mystery of the leather/SM subculture. Free. 7pm. Rock Hard, 518 Castro St. Info: (415) 437-2430 (Davolt also appears Sept. 21, 7:30pm, at Books Inc., 2275 Market St., and Sept. 23, 7pm, at A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St.).

Tue

Terry Baum's One Fool @ The Marsh

Lesbian playwright and congressional candidate Terry Baum performs her one-woman farce One



Congressional Candidate Terry Baum is *One Fool* at The Marsh. See Tuesday.



Mark I. Chester and Dr. Carol Queen's Center for Sex and Culture present Barbara Nitke's loving SM photographs along with digital images and sculpture of bondage ecstasy by Michael Blue, and bondage rigger Midori. See Saturday.

Fool, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Dutch, or the Astonishing & Terrifying Adventures of a Yankee Dyke in Amsterdam, or How She Found Love & Lost Love & Found Love & Lost Love, etc. The play follows the Fool in her desperate search for love, which she unfortunately confuses with good sex. Ms. Baum is running for the U.S. Congress on the Green Party ticket, and this show is a fundraiser for her campaign. \$20 (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. Tix: 415-701-0133.

Queer Beats

@ City Lights Books

Join editor Regina Marler for a reading and discussion on her new book, *Queer Beats: How the Beats Turned America On to Sex*. (Cleis Press). Blasting through the conformism of their day, the Beat writers were queer in the fullest sense of the word: their fluid sexuality challenged all sexual and romantic conventions. *Queer Beats* includes fiction, letters and poetry by Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, William Burroughs, Diane di Prima, Harold Norse, Gore Vidal, Norman Mailer and others, plus a previously unpublished memoir by John Giorno. Free. 7pm. 261 Columbus Ave. (North Beach). Info: 415-362-8193; www.cleis-press.com

Spencer Day & Tim Hockenberry @ La Tasca

Tin Pan Alley Productions presents Spencer Day and Tim Hockenberry in concert to benefit aspiring singers and composers, with proceeds to establish the continuing efforts of Tin Pan Alley, a project of Rainbolt Hampton Arts Foundation. "Keeping the Great American Songbook alive, one benefit performance at a time." No host cocktails & Mediterranean tapas. \$20 plus two-drink minimum. Doors open 6:30pm; show at 8pm. Res: La Tasca at 415-863-3516 or Stu Smith at 415-923-1452. Info: www.tinpanalley.org

Barbara Nitke

@ Good Vibrations

Join Nitke for a slide-show talk and book signing for *Kiss of Fire*, in addition to talking about the NCSF (National Coalition for Sexual Freedom) CDA lawsuit. Free. 8-10pm. 603 Valencia St. (at 17th). Info: 415-522-5460.

Wed

Diane Di Prima @ Lone Mountain, USF

Readings at Lone Mountain, presented by the Master of Fine Arts in Writing Program at USF, presents legendary poet Diane di Prima. From its Beat-era roots to its '60s' revolutionary attitudes to the feminist mythology and hermetic traditions of the epic *Loba*, Diane di Prima's poetry has been a visionary force in American letters. Free. Open to all. 7:30pm. USF, Lone Mountain Campus, 2800 Turk Blvd. (off-street parking available for \$6; ask at kiosk at entrance to Lone Mountain. Info: 415-422-6066.

Radical Sex Photography @ The Citadel

"Celebrating Radical Sex Photography," a community benefit co-sponsored by Mark I. Chester and Dr. Carol Queen's Center for Sex

and Culture. All profits benefit Nitke: the NCSF CDA lawsuit, her travel to SF, and the exhibition of her work. A slide-show panel discussion with Nitke and featured photographers Chester, Michael Blue/Midori, Charles Gatewood, Fakir Musafar, Phyllis Christopher, and other emerging artists. \$10-\$20+ sliding donation (NOTAFLOF). 7-10pm. 245 8th St.

That's Revolting!

@ Main Library

Book launch party: *That's Revolting! Queer Strategies for Resisting Assimilation*. Join editor Matthilda (aka Matt Bernstein Sycamore) and numerous contributors. *That's Revolting!* challenges the notion that the holy trinity of marriage, military service and adoption should be considered the ultimate measure of queer success and explores queer struggles to transform gender, revolutionize sexuality, resist capitalist tyranny and build community outside of traditional models. Books published by Soft Skull Press will be available for sale and signing. Free. 6pm. Main Library, Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, 100 Larkin St. (at Grove).

Evolution's Rainbow

@ Eureka Valley/ Harvey Milk Library

Slide-show/lecture: *Evolution's Rainbow: Diversity, Gender and Sexuality in Nature and People*, presented by Dr. Joan Roughgarden, a professor at Stanford University and a transsexual. Roughgarden will discuss ecology and evolution, human development including genes and hormones, and comparative anthropology of gender and sexuality. Free. 7pm. Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library, 3533 16th St. (near Market).

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall @ The Center

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall, is *Body Image: A Feish Amongst Gay Men?* — a community forum sponsored and organized by the SF Gay Men's Community Initiative. Has raising body image to the level of a fetish helped us or hindered us as individuals and as a community? Join in a dialog along with a panel of professionals and ordinary men from the community. Free. 7pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: 415-552-9393; email sfgmci@yahoo.com.

Thu

Single Spies

@ Theatre Rhinoceros

Preview: *Single Spies* written by Alan Bennett ("The Madness of King George"). National Security, the Royal Family, and other Queens. How many Queens Can One Country Take? This comic double bill pairs Bennett's two one-act plays: *An Englishman Abroad* and *A Question of Attribution*. Both are based upon real people and historic circumstances in the early years of the cold war and relate the real-life experiences of the "Cambridge Spies" who became both renowned and infamous in British society. Pay As You Can Previews Thur & Fri, Sept. 23 & 24; \$15 Wednesdays, 8pm; \$23 Thursdays, 8pm; \$28 Fridays/Saturdays, 8pm; \$23 Sundays, 3pm & 7pm. "Straight Night Out" w/reception on Thur., Sept. 30. \$35 Gala Opening Night

w/reception on Sat., Sept. 25. Show runs thru Oct. 17. Tix/info: 415-861-5079; www.therhino.org

Sex & Mayhem @ NCTC

Opening night: The New Conservatory Theatre Center's *Pride Season Ten: We Are Family*, presents the world premiere of *Sex & Mayhem*, written and performed by Donald Currie, with original music by Don Seaver, directed by John Dixon. It's a riot of words and music dashing through decades of gay life in SF. Currie's script, based on his acclaimed CD series, and Seaver's beautiful score combine to create a tale of a man swept up in the maelstrom of history, from the locked-down '50s to the start of the new century. \$15 previews (Sept. 17-19); \$20 Thu. & Sun.; \$25 Fri. & Sat. 8pm (2pm Sun.). Thru Oct. 10. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix/info: 415-861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

Mark Weigle Band

@ Eagle Tavern

In keeping with the spirit of the weekend, Mark Weigle and his band will be debuting some of the raunchy sex songs that will appear on Weigle's next CD project, *Ver-satile*, due out early next year. Cum hear the new tunes! Meet the new drummer. It'll be a rockin' show! Look for Weigle's work this month in *The Gay & Lesbian Review* and *White Crane Journal*. Weigle Band goes on at 10pm. Shawna Virago and the Deadly Nightshade Family perform starting at 9pm. SF Eagle Tavern, 398 12th St. (at Harrison). Info: www.markweigle.com; www.sfeagle.com

That's Revolting!

@ City Light Books

Matthilda reads from *That's Revolting! Queer Strategies for Resisting Assimilation*, w/ Carol Queen and Charlie Anders. 7pm. 261 Columbus Ave.

Military Balls

@ The EDGE

Military Balls, a benefit for Leather Archives & Museum, with MCs Donna Sachet & Mr. EDGE. Leather 2004 Todd Kinard, and the night's headliner: Shebel \$100 Prize for Best Dressed. Raffle. \$8 Beer/Soda Bust. 8pm-Midnight. The EDGE, 4149 18th St. Info: 415-863-4027.

dZihan & Kamien @ Mighty

Vienna's "future music" DJ duo dZihan and Kamien will spin down-tempo grooves and rug-cutting rhythms at "Mighty" in conjunction with the release of their new album on the Six Degrees label: *The dZihan & Kamien Orchestra: Live in Vienna*. \$10 adv; \$15 door. Doors open 9pm. Mighty, 119 Utah St. (at 15th). Info: 415-241-2500, ext. 105; www.mighty119.com

The Boneman of

Benares

@ The Thick House

Preview: Encore Theatre Company presents the World Premiere of Terry Tarnoff's *The Boneman of Benares*, a one-man show that chronicles an eight-year journey taken by harmonica-playing Tarnoff who drops out of modern society and embarks on a Conradian journey into the heart of darkness and uncovers treasures of the mind, body and spirit. Previews Sept. 23, 24, 25 at 8pm, 26 at 5pm. Opening night: Monday, Sept. 27. Thur.-Sat. performances begin at 8pm. Sunday performances begin at 5pm. Closes Oct. 30. Tix/info: 415-821-4849; www.encoretheatrecompany.org

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Shilo McCabe
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Fetish Diva Midori

Sun Sept 19th
slide show lecture by
Barbara Nitke
SF Citadel, 245 8th St/SF
2-4pm, \$15, open to 18+

Wed Sept 22nd
Sex, Art & Politics
community benefit for
Nitke vs Ashcroft lawsuit

Barbara Nitke
Charles Gatewood
Fakir Musafar
Phyllis Christopher
Michael Blue & Midori
Mark I Chester
SF Citadel, 245 8th St/SF
7-10pm, \$10-\$20+

for more info / other related events
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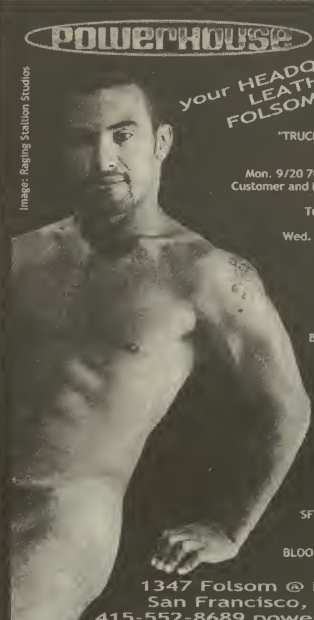
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Meet and Greet
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Julian's LAST DEAL
w/Mr. SF Leather 2004
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This is Thurs, Fri, Sat only -- before Folsom Sunday

Leather pride on parade

Salute the flag and take a walk

by Mister Marcus

The annual display of leather pride in all of its manifestations and subcultures kicks off this coming Sunday, September 19, when Leather Walk 2004 goes into action, starting with the raising of the Leather Pride Flag in Harvey Milk Plaza and the trek from the Castro to SoMa, with pit stops along the way. Entertainment and pledges from leather and non-leather supporters are in place. Committees of every stripe have been working for hundreds of groups, including the Mr. San Francisco Leather 2005 contest on Saturday afternoon and the big daddy of all leather events, the Folsom Street Fair on Sunday, September 26.

Boots, cigars, rubber, fisters, uniforms, radical faeries, golden showers, punching, flogging, piercing, cutting, burning and any other fetish you can think of will come out in full force for the biggest leather celebration in the world.

The Folsom East, Folsom South, Folsom North and Folsom Europe cannot compare with the almost half-a-million spectators who are either here already or en route from the far corners of the world to celebrate their kink. Stages with entertainment will be teeming with action; leather titleholders from around the world will be introduced at 1300 on the 12th Street stage. Beer, wine, "adult beverages", food and toys of leather, steel, rubber and other materials will be on sale. The spectacle stretches for more than six blocks on Folsom, and if tradition holds, an Indian Summer will bestow a sunny backdrop for a pastiche of kink like no other in the world.

So take your vitamins, save your energy, and when your time comes, jump into the fray and enjoy it all. Never mind those naked people (mostly those who



The Mid-Atlantic Leather Sir/boy regional contest held in July yielded Ivan Fox, Mid-Atlantic Leather boy (kneeling) and Mid-Atlantic Leather Sir Robert Davis. They advance to the Int'l. Leather Sir/boy competition in Florida in October.

shouldn't), those people who put their pets through the ordeal or the nay-sayers that are blithely ignored by sensible personalities. It's time to celebrate the lifestyle you have embraced and if it's your first time, you'll be absolutely amazed. Folsom Street Events has been hard at work since a year ago staging this extravaganza

which benefits those who are less fortunate than you. Have a great day, drink plenty of liquids, wear a hat and enjoy it all. This is the day "The City That Knows How" is on display for the entire world to see and enjoy. Have fun, be kind to the tourists, strangers and revel in the majesty that is the

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, September 16

Re-dedication of the SF Leather Daddy & Daddy's Boy plaques around 2000 to 2300 at Daddy's to benefit the Leather Walk.

Friday, September 17

The SF Eagle Tavern celebrates its 7th anniversary around 2000 tonight with grub, grog and music featuring the Cinnamon Girls. Best wishes for continued success to John Gardiner and his staff.

Saturday, September 18

Hayward Pride tonight from 1800 to midnight, California's only nighttime pride celebration, on Main Street in Hayward, with live entertainment, food, DJs, dancing. Info: www.HaywardPride.org.

In San Jose, Leather Masters Sidewalk Sale and BDSM Fair from Noon to 1800. BDSM clubs and groups. It's free!

In San Diego, the 7th Annual "Butch Revue" at the Hole at 2000 to benefit the Ms. San Diego Leather Contest. Only \$10 at the door. Try lthrwich3@yahoo.com.

Wednesday, September 22

Leather Buddies at 933 Harrison. Strict dress code. No sneakers. No cologne. You will be sniffed! Call 777-HEAD.

Thursday, September 23

Bay Area Cigar Buddies at Blow Buddies (933 Harrison) tonight at 2100. Don't choke on all those "stogies"!

Friday, September 24

Meet & Greet Mr. SF Leather 2005 contestants

and judges at the Powerhouse at 2030, followed by Mr. SF Leather Julian Marshburn's "last hurrah" with his "Last Deal" strip Black Jack tournament till 2400.

SF Leather Daddies Art Auction at the Eagle Tavern at 2100 with lots of art, drawings, sculptures.

SF Division of Boots & Breeches Corps "Roll Call" dinner with a \$69 price tag. Available at Stompers Boots by September 17th or at www.bb-corps.org.

Exiles of SF 8th annual Forplay Meet & Greet for women from 2100 to 0200 tomorrow at Studio Z. For info: www.theexiles.org.

Saturday, September 25

Mr. San Francisco Leather 2005 contest at City Nights (715 Harrison @ 3rd Street) with Shann Carr, IML Jason Hendrix, and Julian Marshburn's step-aside. \$15 at Rock Hard and Mister S or \$20 at the door. The public gets to vote too!

"Tit Pig" Hurley appears at the Powerhouse from 1500 to 2000 for the big pecs, titplay and nipple enlargement in man-to-man sensuality. Hi Curt!

The 15 Association monthly play party at the usual location. Doors open 2000 to 2200. Guests must accompany you. Call 673-0452.

Sunday, September 26

The world's biggest leather/bdsm party on Folsom Street from 1100 to 1800. Leather galore, vendors, entertainment, food, booze, hot leather men and women. You haven't lived until you attend Folsom St. Fair.

Lucas Kazan's 'Backstage'

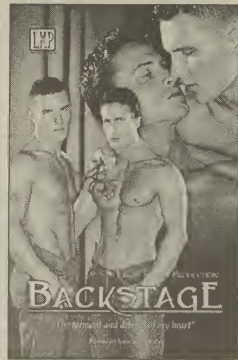
Keep the men, can the production

by John Karr

Lucas Kazan's *Backstage* could have been the perfect salvo to the start of opera season. He's the director who previously adapted *Elixir of Love* and *Pagliacci* to the all-male cinema. No, his new movie isn't a make-over of opening night's *Così fan tutte*—although that seems made for porn, with its three pairs of partner swappers. And it isn't the upcoming *Billy Budd*—all those swarthy sailors cooped up on a boat, with the captain lusting for the blond hunk. No, Kazan has taken his inspiration from the second night's tale of doomed romance, *La Traviata*. He has not, unfortunately, been inspired. He'd have been smart to stick close to the opera's scenario, for there's potential in the story of a hustler who makes the ultimate sacrifice for the john he's fallen in love with. Kazan jettisons that, for a tale that's so devoid of exposition and awkwardly laid out as to be nearly incomprehensible.

Karnal Knowledge

Verdi's Act One prelude is heard in its entirety during the credits. It seems a perfectly romantic lead in. But when Verdi's frenzied party music launches the first scene, we're not at a soiree where "Violetta" is going to take a tumble for "Alfredo." We're inexplicably in the middle of a three-way, and the music has become contemporary electronics. True, the three boys linked in a chain of rimming are striking. The beauty of Verdi's wondrous music has been traded in for the beauty of wondrous bodies. The ravishing cast is predominantly Italian, but includes Cuban, Norwegian, Russian and Hispanic men, each the epitome of his national type. This viewer was bedazzled by the harmoniously muscled contours of smooth and golden bodies, the handsome faces with chiseled fea-



tures, and the severely topiared or completely shaven groins from which curve upward an array of aching hard, uncut, and, need we mention, large, cocks. This is what we expect from Kazan—nobody else coddles us in such streams of warm, classically Italianate beauty.

But the affect this time is only mo-

mentary. The men are so carefully posed in successive positions and activities that they are made faceless, their sex mechanical, and the scenes airless. Their orgasms arrive arbitrarily, as if the director yelled, "Okay, now cum." Which, indeed, occurs later on. It turns out we're watching a scene being filmed for a porno version of *La Traviata*. Although the opera is frequently played in a three acts, I don't recall anywhere in it a three-way. Perhaps these are the party-goers at Violetta's ball. No explanation is given. My attention certainly was caught by the rather astounding sight of Mario Perez' heavy Cuban cock bobbing between his legs as he's banged by sleek David Havien, but I didn't care for being jerked into the fuck sometime after its beginning by an abrupt edit.

Seems the movie-within-the-movie's Director can't get over his unrequited lust for his star, the lovely Sasha Byazrov. He storms off the set, haunted by visions of Sasha freely giving his body to others. Sasha's haunting, alright, a regular Tadzio.

Sculpted pecs & tattoos

Next up is *The Toast*, known in Verdi as the "Brindisi." The toastmaster lifts his glass to the two studs who are the only other people present, and then leaves. The studs get it on. They are the incomparable Max Veneziano, with plate-sized pectorals and sharp tattoos scything over meaty biceps, and powerful Eric Flowers, with square-jawed face atop a granitic physique. Soon after, stunningly handsome Mathias Vannelli comforts boyish Ricky Martinez after he's suffered an abusive audition for the distracted Director. Would you believe that at the very brink of Vannelli's orgasm, Kazan cuts to *The Director* moping on a storm swept street? Returning to the action, we find the couple midway through another activity. This is typical of Kazan's sense of narrative structure, shaping of sex scenes, and general editing clumsiness, which also mars the finale's star turn. While filming his unobtainable inamorata in a sex scene, *The Director* imagines himself in Sasha's arms, thrusting into his ass, and then on the receiving end of his dick. Unlike the previous bottoms, Sasha is facially and vocally responsive, and is rewarded by being allowed to deliver the only insertion shot in the entire movie (!). Yet the passionless tableaux of Kazan's staging render even this a somewhat uninvolved fuck.

The passions of *La Traviata* aren't found in this movie, which squeaks by merely on its model's looks. I'm a slave for beauty, baby, but *Backstage* broke the chains. ▼

Info: 1-800-733-3393;
www.lucaskazan.com

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Folsom Street Fair.

New kid on the block

After months of mano-a-mano activity with the San Francisco bureaucracy, decorators, suppliers, craftsmen and carpenters, Joe Gallagher finally opened his barbershop at 4102 19th Street (just off Castro) and it's only been two years since he finished barber school.

Designer Wade Hine and Art Director Jon Stoa combined their talent to design a shop for gay men and women that embraces old-fashioned sensibilities of barbering with a sense of modernity, utilitarianism and a friendly ambience. New guard "perverts" and punks, no-frills businessmen, butch dykes and anyone that appreciates a good hair cut, a hot shave and the sound of well-oiled clippers will revel in Joe's Barber shop. Four barbers will occupy 300 square feet with an occasion-

al bootblack on duty under a stainless steel ceiling, mirrors everywhere, four-foot safety glass windows and a big bench outside so you can sip your favorite libation and watch the world go by. Check it out. Appointments by calling 255-9096 or online at www.joesbarbershop.com. You owe it to yourself to pamper YOU.

You asked for dish, so...

The *American Heritage Dictionary* defines the word rumor as "Unverified information of uncertain origin usually spread by word of mouth." (Am I starting to sound like that pedantic "author" in that "other" rag?). So there is a strong rumor out there that former International Mr. Bootblack Richie Chameroy is being besieged by a group to really run for Empress de San Francisco. Sounds campy to me, and reminiscent of the late Luscious Lorelei (Paul Bentley)



Leather

who wasn't a drag queen, but a "drag impersonator" and traipsed around in "full face" and combat boots. Those were the days!

Another "rumor": the defunct *Drummer Magazine* is in negotiation to return to the U.S. and begin publishing once more, and will be headquartered in San Francisco. No one who was ever connected with the magazine will be part of the "new regime" according to mouthpieces of uncertain origin, but remember, it's a "rumor". And a Mr. Drummer and Drummer Boy? I'll believe it when I see it.

Earlier this year a press release was sent out announcing the creation of a National Mr. LURE contest and the opening of a LURE bar in Detroit. They were also looking for investors to open a facility that "quite possibly would have dwarfed the old L.U.R.E., NYC." So far, not a peep about either venture. ▼

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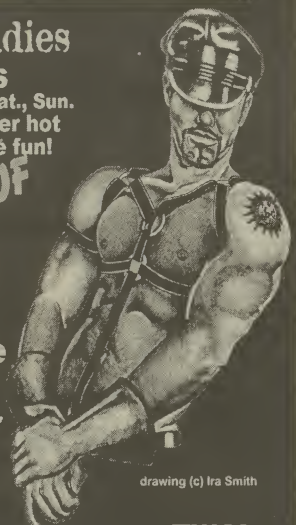
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drawing (c) Ira Smith

TWO!
Leather
Buddies
Parties

Wed., Sept. 22
AND
Wed., Sept. 29
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play 'til late

Home of the
Leathermen's
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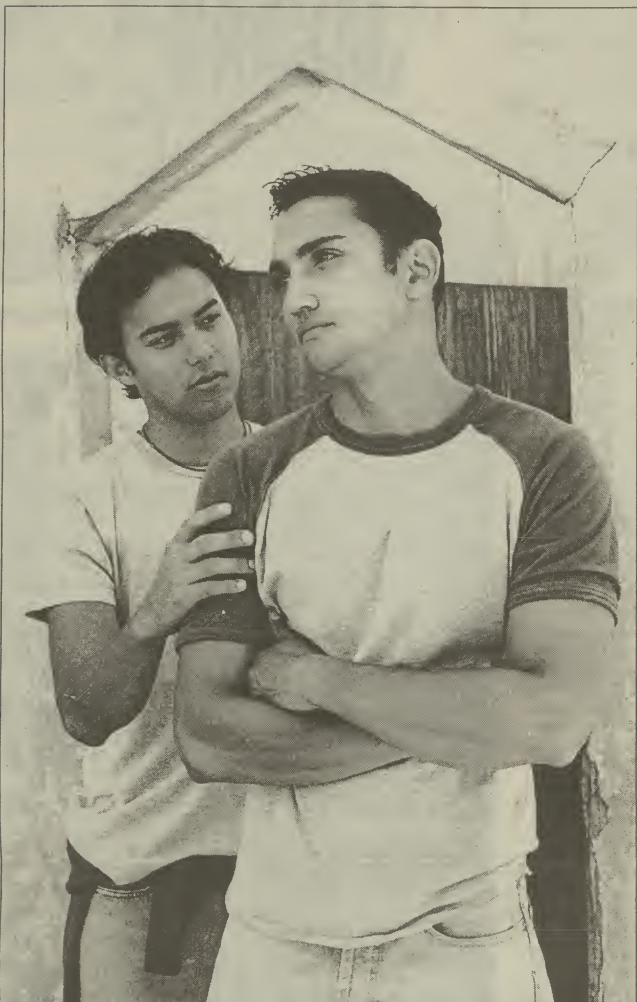
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SF Renaissance Faire 8/29

You - cute guy in black Frameline T-shirt, who helped Juggler. I was in shorts, orange sleeved shirt. Never said hello, then had to go. Want to discuss faire/movies? ☎ 71386

Subway to Castro 8/26 10PM

You: Stuck-up, red-haired slut cruising seven/eight dudes in train. Me: One of those dudes. Which? You have to guess, you hot-sexy-filthy-disgusting pig! Love, Demura. ☎ 71388

Bart-Walnut Creek - SF Sun 9/5

You - Red Angels T-Shirt, back pack, Macy's bag - cute. Gave seat to elderly Chinese man - class. Me - yellow T-Shirt. We chatted. Want more friends in Walnut Creek? Let me know. ☎ 71392

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Santa Rosa native, 43, 5'10", 180#, ex-Navy. Enjoys tennis, chess, talk, radio & reading. Seeks relationship. ☎ 71376

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GWM 48 healthy HIV+ seeking 45 to 55 Black or Latino man HIV+ for companionship and possible LTR. I like going to football, baseball, musicals, and movies. Lonely. ☎ 71377

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Hi boys! Where are you? I am looking for you. Me: 50, 5'6", 180 lbs. Want to show you & me a good time. Espero tener en mi brazos con amor. ☎ 71385

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I like Black or Latino Men

White male 48, healthy, HIV+, seeking 40 to 55 top black or Latino man, HIV+. Looking for fun, companionship and sex. The bigger, the better. ☎ 71390

Funky Men

WM 47, 6', 160lbs. I'm looking to get together with really funky guys - homeless guys, hobos, unshaven, sweaty, smelly, etc. - for hot, passionate, sensual times. Also interested in others who enjoy this scene. Over 40 a plus. No pain, S & M. ☎ 71391

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◀ Arts cover

are sort of played out. You know, every gay boy has some fantasy that his father is also gay. It's an Oedipal thing."

Taking a deep breath, he continues: "It was an intentional idea to start with scary situations like that and magnify them so they take on an operatic perspective, whence the desire to have Dianne play an opera diva. I guess it is really stupid to say this, but it was influenced by *The Brady Bunch*. For me, the film's about a group of kooky characters that, no matter what happens, end up sort of forming a reconstituted family. It's a family thing."

As for the dead shrink scenario? "I've actually been in Freudian analysis for 11 years," he explains. "By the way, *Dr. Rey* does wonderfully well at gay film festivals. They're great audiences, but I don't feel so much more a gay director than I guess I am an American director or a Jewish director, or this or that."

Enter Oscar-winning Dianne Wiest, who's dressed very glamorously, as opposed to her drag queen outfits in the film. Laughing hysterically, she purrs, "How wonderful! I guess they do look like drag queen outfits. I never thought about that, especially my cone-hat and muumuu. It was a blast putting on the clothing and running around the streets of Paris like that, nobody batting an eye."

This, by the way, is the second time in one year that Wiest plays the mother of a homosexual. The other was in the Emmy-nominated Hallmark Hall of Fame production *The Blackwater Lightship*. How do the roles compare?

"In *Blackwater Lightship*," Wiest notes, "this is a woman who's been estranged from both her children. Her daughter and her son. The boy feels so estranged that he can't, first of all, tell his mom he's gay, and secondly, that he has had AIDS for a number of years. Now he's dying, and now he has to tell her. So that's the point of departure for that movie. Whereas Andrew's movie is just this. There's the underpinnings of this diva. I think I say at one point, 'How could my boy not be gay with me as a mother?' but it's a farcical situation. It's just madcap."

Society's child

Jane Birkin agrees. If you don't recall, Birkin was the first actress to go full-frontal in a regular movie (*Blowup*) and one of the first singers to have a song in which she moans a lot banned by the Pope ("Je T'aime ... Moi Non Plus"). She also currently has a \$5,000 pocketbook named after her. (See *Sex and the City* episode.)

Recovering from a hangover, the lovely star notes, "I saw such lousy movies on the plane coming over here. I watched all four of them, and I wished that *Dr. Rey* had been on. Then you would have seen people grinning. You would have seen people being intrigued and thinking, where's all this going? Perhaps because it's a screwball film, and it's about marginal people, of whom I'm a part. I mean, I know that at my concerts I see girls kissing each other, and boys holding each fondly. So I realize that the people who follow my concerts are often people who don't find their place in society, quite the way that this film hasn't found its place in society, which is why I like it."

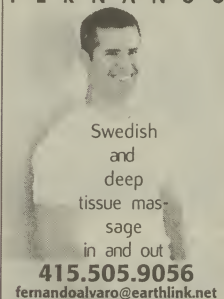
Moving on, there's a famous photograph of Birkin and Brigitte Bardot naked in bed together from the 1973 film *Don Juan ou Si Don Juan était une femme*. What's the story?

"Do you know that photo spread was turned down by *Playboy* because they didn't think I got big enough bosoms?" Birkin grins. "I think they perhaps thought it was rather off to have these two girls in bed. I thought it was rather a pity, because the staples in my stomach would have added a little something to the centerfold page. But those days were not the same. I expect we would be put in *Playboy* now. But in those days, no, no, no."

"Back then, I longed to see what Brigitte Bardot really looked like, and very close-up. She was trying to find a fault. I looked everywhere there was, but there was no fault at all. Her ankles were tiny. Her feet were precious. Her bosoms were just right. She had a waist. There was absolutely nothing wrong with her at all. And I said, 'Oh, you've got such a pretty nose,' and she said, 'You've got such a pretty nose.' And I said, 'Your nose is prettier than my nose,' and she said, 'Yes, it is.' Coming soon. ▼

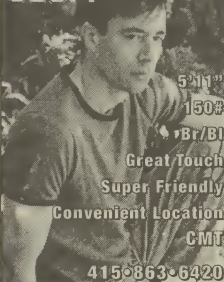
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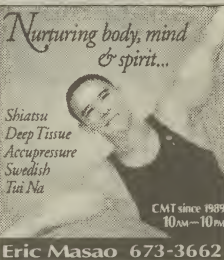


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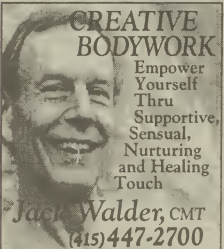
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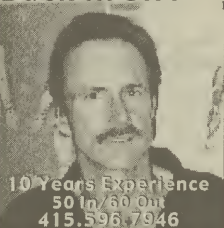


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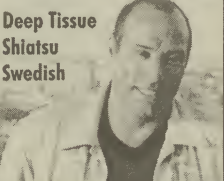
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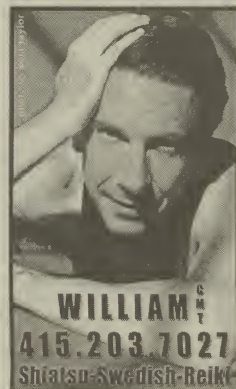
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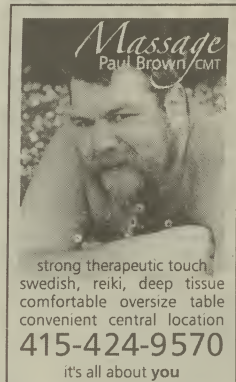
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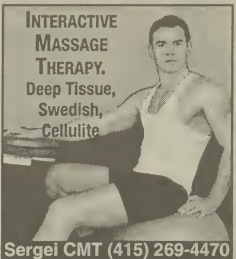
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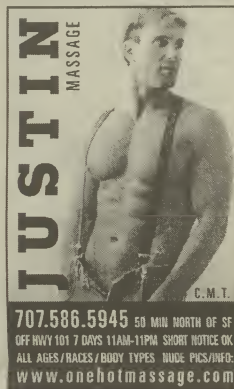
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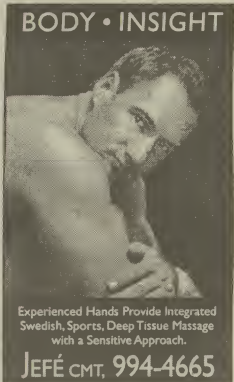
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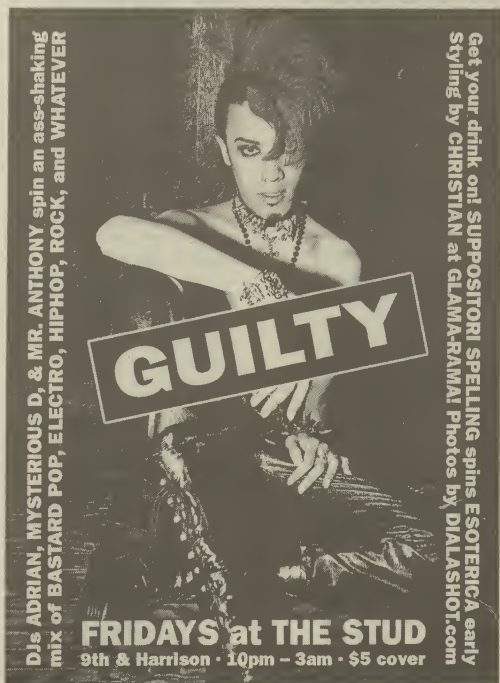
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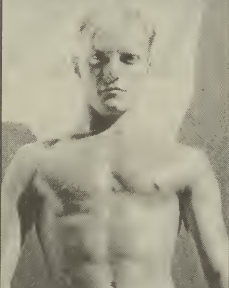
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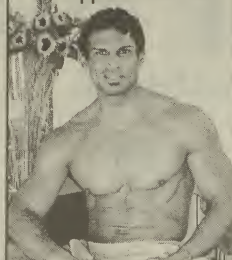


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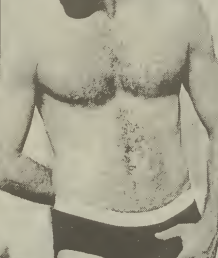
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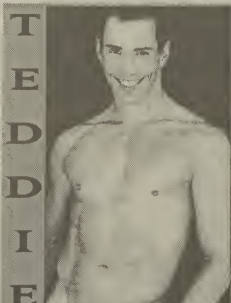
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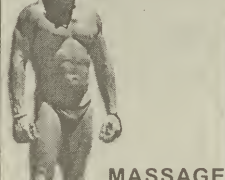
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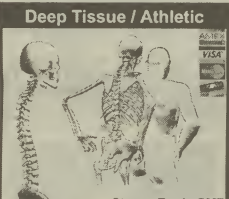
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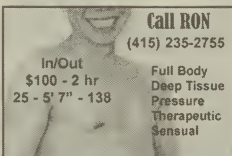


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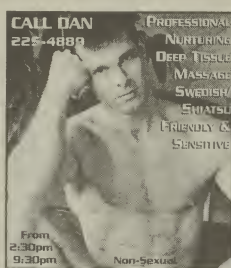
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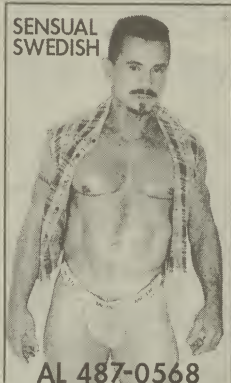
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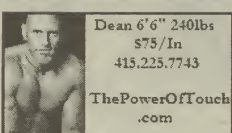
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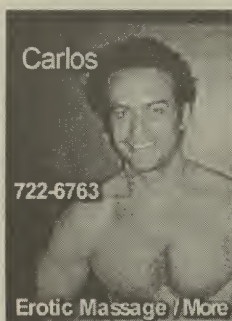
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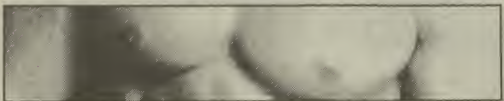
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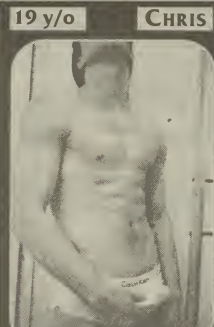
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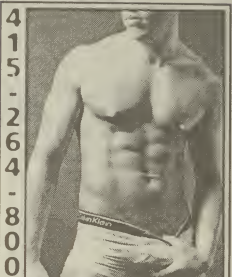


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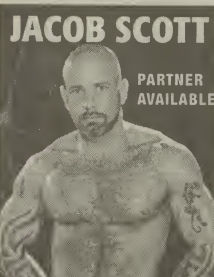


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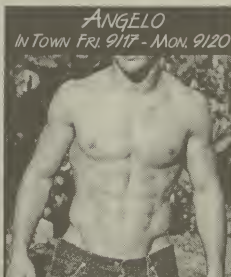
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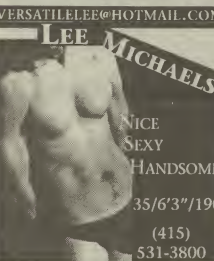
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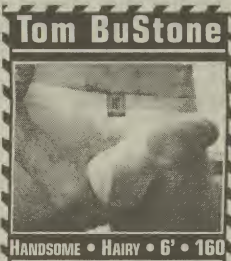
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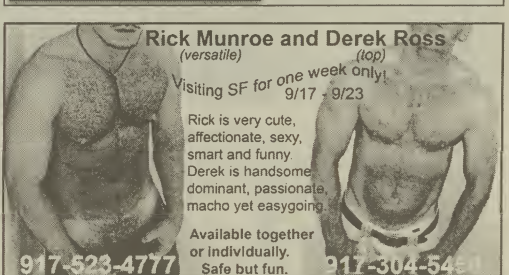
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24 Hours

\$2.00

976-7500

Free

(415) 981-8123



**MR. SAN FRANCISCO
LEATHER CONTEST IS ON
SATURDAY, SEP. 25TH.**

You can enter the competition without going through a bar contest! You can enter without a sponsor. You can enter as an independent. Show your leather pride. Show the world that the best leather community in the US is San Francisco. Be proud of your heritage. Get active. Get involved!

HAPPILY EVER AFTER WANTED

Physically active GWM, HIV-, age 43, S&P hair, brown eyes with lean build and sense of humor who enjoys romantic evenings, fine dining, the beach, Napa Valley, and the good life. Are you a goal-oriented "nice guy" age 38-48, with a spontaneity gene, who likes his mother and is kind to four-legged animals? Let's nurture a fantastic friendship that grows into a loving relationship worth getting sentimental about. Respond to Ad Code 2746 (Never a charge to Respond-FREE).

www.DukePersona1Search.com

* Spanking Over Daddy's Knee * Experienced, Safe, role-play/Real 415-864-2766 Beginners welcome

GOOD HEAD *826-6858*CASTRO

BAY AREA REPORTER

PERSONALS ORDER FORM

Indicate
Type Style
Here ▼

X-BOLD Stops Here ▼ **BOLD** Stops Here ▼ **CAPS** Stop Here ▼ Regular Stops Here ▼

DEADLINE

NOON on MONDAY.
Payment *must* accompany ad.
No ads taken over the
telephone. If you have a
question, call 415.861.5019.
Display advertising rates
available upon request.

RATES

First line, Regular	4.50
All subsequent lines	3.00
CAPS	double price
BOLD	double price
X-BOLD	triple price

PAYMENT

Cash
Personal Check
Money Order
Visa
MasterCard

Minimum \$10 charge
on Visa and MasterCard.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number	
3-Digit Security Code	Expiration Date
Signature	
Name	

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name		Telephone
Address		
City	State	Zip
Number of Issues	Classification	Amount Enclosed

**MAIL WITH
PAYMENT TO:
BAY AREA
REPORTER**

395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA
94103

OR FAX TO:
415.861.8144

PERSONALS

ADULT JOBS OFFERED

CASTING XXX MODELS

ALL MALE LEATHER VIDEO
VISIT MSR VIDEOS BOOTH AT
FOLSOM STREET FAIR
IDENTITIES CAN BE CONCEALED
CALL 1-877-361-3400 FOR DETAILS
SHOOTING SEPT. 28/29/30

CASTING MALE MODELS

Oct. 4th thru 8 18-30 inshape jocks,
boys nextdoor, muscle boys for web-
sites, magazines.
Call or email Brad @ 619-253-1337
braderiksen@yahoo.com

FACTORY VIDEO

You - Hot, 18-35, in shape. Like sex
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for an interview. Also looking for bears.
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work some 2nd and 3rd shifts. Previ-
ous experience working with the pub-
lic required. Pick up application at
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Are you addicted to sucking
cock? Are you a show off? Look
good, be passionate. Email
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MEDIA.COM

CASTING MALE MODELS

Oct 4th thru 8th • 18-30's. Inshape
Jocks, Boys Next Door, Muscle Guys,
for websites & magazines. Call or
email Brad @ 619-253-1337
Braderiksen@yahoo.com

CASTING XXX MODELS!

ALL-MALE LEATHER VIDEO
Visit MSR Videos Booth at
Folsom Street Fair
Identities can be concealed.
Call 1-877-361-3400 for details
Shooting Sept 28/29/30

XXX WEB



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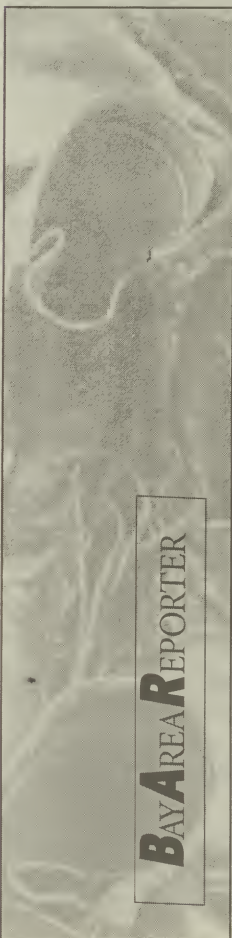
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BAY AREA REPORTER

TRUCK STOP

DREGGS of the BUST
present: a Start your
FOLSOM Engine
Party!

Sunday, September 19 8 p.m. - Midnight
95 Benefits: the Center
\$1 Draft \$1 shot Special
DJ: Sean Greene
Basket Raffle
Photo Ops by NORM
Manly ASS Contest
Hitch-hikin' go-go's

1347 Folsom SF, CA 415-552-8689 powerhouse-sf.com







CALL FOR ENTRIES

A CALL FOR ENTRIES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV
OPEN UP is a San Francisco SAFE SEX POSTER CONTEST.

This is your chance to create a powerful HIV prevention message for gay men.
Don't you have something to say about HIV prevention?

Haven't you always thought you could design a great prevention poster?

Entries must be submitted by October 15th. THE GRAND PRIZE IS \$500!
For details go to www.magnetsf.org or call 415-581-1612

Contest sponsored by:  **EROS**  **BRAND**  **WRITER**  **BETTER WORLD ADVERTISING**